

Monday August 17 1998

Abu Dhabi D 0.50
Albania US\$ 0.50
Andorra FF 10
Australia AS\$ 30
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Belgium BF 10
Bolivia B 10
Brazil R\$ 10
Canada C\$ 10
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Ecuador E 10
Egypt E£ 10
France FF 10
Germany DM 10
Greece D 10
Hong Kong HK\$ 10
Hungary H 10
India R 10
Indonesia R 10
Israel I£ 10
Japan ¥ 10
Jordan J 10
Korea K\$ 10
Kuwait K 10
Labrador L\$ 10
Lebanon L 10
Lithuania L 10
Luxembourg L 10
Malaysia M 10
Malta M 10
Mauritius M 10
Morocco M 10
Netherlands G 10
Norway N 10
Oman O 10
Pakistan P 10
Poland Z 10
Portugal P 10
Romania R 10
Russia R 10
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Singapore S 10
Spain P 10
Sweden S 10
Switzerland S 10
Taiwan T 10
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USA US\$ 1.00
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The bomb hit right where it was placed: at Omagh's heart



A town's lost youth... Among the dead were, from left: Samantha McFarland, aged 17, her best friend Lorraine Wilson, 15, Adrian Gallagher, 21, and Brenda Logue, 17

The people of this small, polite market town have not witnessed the tornado of terrorism before. Now it has sliced through their lives, hitting them without discrimination, writes Jonathan Freedland



Like every place that has been bombed, Omagh looks like a town torn up by a tornado. Just like Enniskillen, Oklahoma or Nairobi before it, a whirlwind has ripped this place apart — peeling the roof off a building like the lid from a sardine can, scattering glass like rain, and cutting through human lives like the most vengeful of hurricanes. Like every bombed town, Omagh has fallen under a deadly hush. People move quietly, whispering their greetings. No one wants to smile or laugh. Adult men clasp their hands to their foreheads, their faces bowed so no one will see their eyes red from tears. Teenage girls gnaw their fingernails. Omagh was not a town yesterday: it was a funeral. Like every place whose name has entered the unbroken canon of atrocity — Guildford, Warrington, Cookstown — Omagh has seen a procession of dignitaries come to mourn. A helicopter choppers overhead, then there they are, standing before a microphone. John Prescott, Gerry Adams, Mary McAleese, Tony Blair... The words are all so similar, so utterly useless really, that after a while they merge into a blur. It is not their fault; no one can say anything. Even the promise of a cross-border security summit, announced last night, sounds like King Canute's courtiers raging at the waves. In all this, Omagh is no different from any town visited by the tornado of terrorism. The pictures from here probably look the same as last

they had seen grow, whose genes they had seen at work. The inscriptions were not poetic, but spoke plainly. One bunch was laid for the slain baby. Another, of yellow carnations, was addressed directly to God: "This is such a waste. I have to ask why? Please comfort and have mercy on all [all your] people today." A third was "in memory of all who have died — Omagh will never recover from this horror." Suddenly everything in this town looks different. Disaster has a grisly knack of making the previously innocuous seem ironic, or cruelly appropriate, and now Omagh has fallen victim to it. How many residents will now pause as they drive in from Belfast, realising that the first place they see as they come into town is a graveyard? How many will look again at the shop just around the corner from the blast which killed so many children, the shop called Nippers' Corner? The people of Omagh are also pondering all the tiny, mundane decisions that now seem like fate. How come they were not there at that moment? A minibus full of football fans was heading into town but got stuck at traffic lights — delaying them by crucial, life-saving minutes. The leader of a Spanish school trip reckoned a visit to Omagh might make a nice

day out — never imagining how it would end. Sean Loughran could not sleep on Saturday night, constantly thinking about that bomb. He knows Omagh better than anyone, has lived there all his life and runs the Campsite Bar, just by Market Street. He heard the blast and ran right into the carnage. He was looking for his son, Paul, aged just nine. "I couldn't believe it, I was standing in bodies," he said. A water main had burst and water was gushing everywhere, unleashing rivers of blood, not as metaphor, but as fact. The bodies were floating past me, but you couldn't even tell that's what they were," he said, and his voice choked as if he could sob a river of tears. He saw arms, legs and so much blood, but still no sign of Paul. He rushed to his home and — thank God Almighty — there was the lad, waiting for him, thinking the very same thing. "Da, I'm here," the boy said, and he hugged his son tight. Mr Loughran felt a relief sweeter than he had ever known. But there was no sleep. At 5.00 yesterday morning he was wide awake, talking to himself — the first time he has ever done that. He cannot bring himself to go to the Omagh Leisure Centre, converted now into an incident centre where families huddle

around notice boards, waiting for word of the injured and the dead. "I don't want to hear the names, because I know them all," he said. Mr Loughran, aged 55, believed Omagh would never see such darkness. "I thought the bombing was all over, with the agreement and the approval of Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionists, the Irish and British governments, and the people of north and south — and yet a bloody act of war has been committed. Everyone has done all they can to bring peace, and yet more people died on Saturday than in any single act of the entire three decades of the Troubles. No wonder the politicians sounded numb and helpless yesterday: what can they do?" For there is no logic to turn the Omagh bomb into a problem that can be solved. The Real IRA and the rest of the republican splinter groups seem happy to bomb their own people — Omagh is 70 per cent nationalist — to achieve an aim that next to none of those people want. Nationalist voters endorsed the Good Friday agreement by an estimated margin of nine to one. Perhaps it was sheer failure to comprehend the bombers' motives that prompted the talk in Omagh yesterday of a cock-up: the hope that the

Omagh massacre



● Death toll from the Omagh bomb, Northern Ireland's worst single terrorist atrocity, is put at 28, with 220 injured.
● Fourteen women, five men and seven children, four of them girls, among the dead. Two victims yet to be identified.
● Tony Blair breaks off holiday in France and flies to Ulster. He pledges bombers will not be allowed to wreck the peace process. The bomb was a "blast of evil", says Blair. Last night he held emergency talks with the Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in Belfast.
● Three generations of the same family, all female, killed by the blast. Identified as 65-year-old grandmother Mary Grimes, her daughter, Avril Monaghan, 30, who was pregnant with twins, and Mrs Monaghan's 18-month-old baby, Maura, all from Augher, County Tyrone.
● RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan announces special task force to investigate the bombing.
● Victims include three boys out on a last-minute shopping trip. They were last night named as Sean McLaughlin, 12, his neighbour, Oran Doherty, eight, and James Barker, 12, all from the seaside town of Buncrana. Two Spanish friends who had come with them were also killed.
● Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern vows to hunt down the republican splinter group blamed for the massacre.
● "Whatever resources are necessary to crush this organisation will be given," he pledges.
● Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams repeats his "utter condemnation" of the bombing "without any equivocation whatsoever".
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'Real IRA' renegades blamed

Sinn Féin joins Blair and Ahern in condemnation of rebel group

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent
BITISH government officials yesterday pointed the finger of blame for the 28 deaths in the Omagh bombing across the Irish border to Dundalk, home of the renegade Real IRA. The Irish prime minister, Bertie Ahern, and Sinn Féin pointed to the group — formed by IRA dissidents unhappy with the peace process — as the culprits. A caller claiming to represent the organisation phoned a Belfast newsroom claiming responsibility for the bomb minutes before it exploded on Saturday afternoon. Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Féin chairman, said police on both sides of the border knew who was responsible. Tony Blair, who met Mr Ahern in Belfast last night, said there was no doubt that the Real IRA could do as the suspects were outside its jurisdiction. The onus was on the Irish government to act.

A British government source said: "No matter how much we are tempted, this is a democracy and we can't just send in the boys to sort it out." Security sources believe that the leader of the Real IRA is living in Dundalk. Neither Mr Blair nor Mr Ahern favours the re-introduction of internment, which was a disaster when introduced by the British government in the 1970s. Although it has not been formally ruled out, police on both sides of the border are dubious about its effectiveness. A security force source said: "We do not want to create martyrs." The RUC and Garda chiefs are to meet today to discuss tactics. The favoured approach is to use measures in the Irish Criminal Justice Act, introduced to combat drug barons, against the Real IRA. This would involve increased surveillance and searches, and what has proved successful against the drug barons, the seizure of assets. "They might still be there but they would not have money to buy fertiliser or any other bomb equipment or guns," a source said last night. With the net tightening round the Real IRA, Mr Ahern, speaking at a joint press conference with Mr Blair, said: "We will do whatever we have to do."

He accused what he described as the "fringe militant group" of having planned outrages even before the Good Friday Agreement had been signed. Earlier, Mr Ahern was more specific, saying he did not have "any real doubt in my mind" that the blame lay with "members of what they term themselves the 32 County Sovereignty, the Real IRA or whatever else they call themselves". Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, joined in the condemnation. Unusually, given a republican culture hostile to any form of "grassing", Mr McLaughlin admitted that dissident republicans were probably responsible.

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Omagh massacre

Some security sources believe that the IRA might hand over weapons to prevent them falling into the hands of the Real IRA.

Loyalists signal their ceasefire is secure

THE RESPONSE / Opponents believe Real IRA has erred, write John Mullin and Ewen MacAskill

MAINSTREAM loyalist paramilitaries were last night ready to stick with their four-year-old ceasefire. Their position, signalled after a series of meetings, was some comfort on a savage weekend as Northern Ireland's leaders strove to keep the political process on course.

The move came as Tony Blair cut short his holiday in France to fly to Belfast. He was clearly affected by the tragedy, and stayed overnight. Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, was due to return from Greece this morning.

The Ulster Defence Association and the paramilitary outfit to which it is linked, the Ulster Freedom Fighters, together with the Ulster Volunteer Force, were outraged at the bombing of Omagh.

But they are prepared to withstand the Real IRA's attempts to goad them back into violence.

One senior loyalist source said that the groups realised it would be an error to retaliate when violent republicanism was close to destroying itself over mass murder, which is thought to have killed more Catholics than Protestants.

But there could be rogue elements prepared to exact revenge, and the Loyalist Volunteer Force, on ceasefire since only since May, is seen as the most likely to hit back. It has been responsible for 18 murders in two years.

There was a growing conviction in Northern Ireland last night that the Real IRA's support had dwindled to nothing, and that the Irish government was prepared to act against its leaders. Most live in the republic. Downing Street called it the group of last resistance.

The stand of the loyalist paramilitary groups, particularly the UDA and UFF, is an important boost. The UDA's political ally, the Ulster Democratic Party, failed to win a seat in the 108-seat assembly, sparking fears about the in-

stability of the process. The UDP issued an appeal for no retaliation.

The UDA and UFF were engaged in a flurry of killings at the beginning of the year after the loyalist leader Billy Wright was shot dead. They restored the ceasefire after involvement in the killings of three Catholics.

A key factor in the loyalists' decision is thought to have been Gerry Adams's outright condemnation of Saturday's bombing. Although loyalists mistrust Mr Adams, it was the first time a Sinn Féin leader had used the term "condemnation" when commenting on an attack mounted by any republican organisation.

Mr Adams was unequivocal.

Adams could use the situation to marginalise the Real IRA. That might give comfort to Trimble

cal. He said: "I reiterate my total condemnation of this action. There should now be an urgent meeting of all the political parties here to discuss a way out of the crisis."

His colleague, Martin McGuinness, went further. He effectively accused the Real IRA of the bombing, a theme picked up on by Mitchell McConnell, the Sinn Féin chairman.

McGuinness said: "I have no doubt over the course of the next 24 hours that we will have, I think, a very firm opinion as to who was responsible. I certainly have my own view that it could be this group, which describe them-

selves as the IRA, which I think most people within the republican community would not recognise as the IRA at all."

Ominously for the Real IRA, he predicted "a massive backlash within the republican nationalist community in the course of the next coming days and weeks". The voice of that community would be made "crystal clear" and he called on the Real IRA to cease its activities.

There is speculation in Belfast that Mr Adams, praised by Mr Blair for a genuine commitment to peace, could use the situation to marginalise the Real IRA further. That could signal some comfort for David Trimble, first minister and leader of the Ulster Unionists, ahead of next month's crucial meeting of the new assembly.

He has long been under pressure from Unionist colleagues over Sinn Féin's participation in the power-sharing executive. Sinn Féin is due two places in the 12-member executive under the proportionality rules.

Any small gesture on the part of the IRA to begin de-commissioning of its terrorist arsenal, or a statement that the war is over, would give Mr Trimble room for manoeuvre. Some security sources believe that the IRA might hand over weapons to prevent them falling into the hands of the Real IRA.

Many Unionists remain unconvinced by the security forces' assertions that they do not believe that IRA members are involved with the Real IRA. These Unionists think that the Omagh massacre was the logical outcome of what they perceive as government concessions to Sinn Féin to prevent a return to IRA violence.

The bombing brought again calls for the re-introduction of selective internment without trial. Both the Dublin and London governments appeared to be flirting with the notion early yesterday. They believe it could work, but would be a high risk strategy. Although intelligence is much better now and any arrests would be on a smaller scale, they are worried that internment could spark a resurgence in support for the paramilitaries, as it did a quarter of a century ago.



John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, inspects the scene of the Omagh bombing yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN CHUNG

Ronnie Flanagan, chief constable of the RUC, and Pat Byrne, the Garda commissioner, will meet today. The identities of the prime suspects are known. One was at his home last night, advising reporters to talk to his solicitor if they wanted a comment.

Mr Blair spoke to a range of politicians last night, including Mr Trimble, Mr Adams, and the political representatives of the loyalist paramilitaries. Most had broken their holidays to return to Northern Ireland.

He met Bertie Ahern, the Ireland prime minister, at Stormont House, and both men spelled out their determination to deal with the bomb-

devastation and to a nearby hospital. Mr Blair later made a private visit to some of the victims.

Mr Blair said those behind the Omagh bombing had "no political organisation, no vote, no political voice". He added: "They stand for nothing other than the chance to wreck the future for the people of Northern Ireland."

He expressed his deep sympathy for the bereaved in Omagh. "How can we ever express what it must be like to lose a child or to lose your parents in such a way? But in the end I know that amongst all the emotions of grief and anger, people will want to know that we are carrying on working for peace. That is all we can do."

"Of course we feel a sense that this is a situation so appalling, but we have to carry on and take the measures that are necessary in terms of security. We will do that. I will never give up on the process of peace."

Atrocities in Northern Ireland used to beget retaliation. But government sources believe that recent experience has shown each to be a step away from enduring violence.

While the Shankill bomb in 1993 provoked the Greysteel massacre and the Kennedy Way killings, with the loss of 19 lives in a week, the LVF's

slaying of a Catholic and his Protestant friend in a bar in Poyntzpass, Co Armagh, seemed to spur the politicians on to greater efforts. The Good Friday Agreement was the product of a month later.

August, generally a month of drift for leaders, has this year, after the tumultuous year of rising to each ever more demanding challenge on the path of the political process, revealed even more than usual.

Omagh has concentrated minds once more. That may be scant consolation for the bereaved and injured, but the murders of 28 people may yet mark the end of poisonous violence in Northern Ireland.

Bloody Saturday may mark beginning of end for dissidents

THE REAL IRA / John Mullin on the suspect group: hardline, committed and unpredictable

BRITISH and Irish security forces believe that the Omagh atrocity is the work of the Real IRA — a hardline, committed and, most worryingly of all, unpredictable group which has grown to prominence over the past year.

Responsibility was claimed moments before the bomb went off on Saturday afternoon. A caller telephoned Ulster Television and said he was from Ogligh na hEileann — the term adopted by the Real IRA.

One scant consolation is that the worst atrocity of 30 years of the Troubles may also mark the moment the Real IRA imploded.

Dissident republicans, proud holders of the moral high ground among those who resolutely pursue a united Ireland, could find no excuse yesterday, and they felt support ebbing away. One, an IRA murderer, said: "There are legitimate reasons to oppose the Adams-McGuinness approach but all of that is unimportant now. This ought to mark the end of the Real IRA."

The group's story began in earnest 12 months back. Sinn Féin, in one of its many dramatic policy shifts of the past year, signed up to the Mitchell principles enshrining non-violence last September, and thereby gained a place at the

multi-party political talks at Stormont.

Many Sinn Féin members were as uneasy about that move as the subsequent step to participate in the new Northern Ireland assembly, but in a tightly led organisation most were persuaded to greet what might otherwise be seen as a climbdown as triumph.

Outside the IRA, there were the Irish National Liberation Army and Continuity IRA, numbering perhaps 100 or so members between them. They remained opposed to the IRA ceasefire and the Stormont political talks, but the security forces were confident they were under control.

But, in a miscalculated attempt to topple the republican leadership of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness over their approach to the Stormont peace process, the IRA's quartermaster-general demanded an extraordinary convention of the IRA to discuss Sinn Féin's adherence to the Mitchell principles. Although there was sympathy for his stance, the quartermaster was outmanoeuvred and quit the IRA at the meeting in Gweedore, Donegal. He promised the IRA's arms dumps would remain untouched.

About 20 IRA volunteers followed him into the rival outfit, and it has grown to about 100 members since.

Just after the Gweedore fallout, there were 30 resignations from Sinn Féin in Co Louth, just across the Irish border. There were reports of 35 defections from the IRA in south Armagh, a republican heartland.

Then came the founding of the 32 County Sovereignty Committee, dedicated to upholding the Irish Declaration of Independence of more than 70 years ago. Its charter accepts the use of violence, although it claims to be a peaceful outfit.

Although formally the vice-chair, Bernadette Sands-McKevitt, aged 39, is its leading light. She is the wife of another leading supporter of the group, Michael McKevitt. Together, they run a printing business in Dundalk.

She is also the sister of Bobby Sands, the first of 10 republican hunger strikers to die at the Maze prison in 1981. Although based in Dundalk for almost 20 years, she is from Belfast and her involvement was seen as a challenge from Mr Adams's own backyard for the soul of the movement.

She denies suggestions of any previous involvement in the IRA and rejects security force claims that she is now the IRA's quartermaster. The IRA's operations were limited. Several car bombs, left in towns in Northern Ireland, failed to explode. Half a dozen were intercepted, usually in



and much of the Real IRA's support comes from Kerry, Cork and Louth. It has made some inroads in Northern Ireland, but again in areas such as south Armagh, away from the interface.

The success of the Real IRA's operations was limited. Several car bombs, left in towns in Northern Ireland, failed to explode. Half a dozen were intercepted, usually in

the Irish Republic. Sinn Féin, although it always claims to be unable to speak for the IRA, was enraged at suggestions that IRA members were tipping off the security forces, instead blaming the Real IRA's ineptitude.

The death of the Real IRA's first martyr was certainly farce. Ronan MacLochlainn, aged 27, a father of three, was shot dead in May near Dublin as six former members of the Provisional IRA staged the Real IRA's first fundraising raid. They attempted the armed robbery of £200,000 from a security van. Police were lying in wait and MacLochlainn was killed, apparently as he tried to escape. That the incident occurred when Ireland's police force was on strike over pay somehow added to the fiasco.

Present at MacLochlainn's funeral were Mr McKevitt, Ms Sands-McKevitt and Frankie Mackey. So too were most of the Real IRA, giving police plenty of opportunity to identify its leaders.

Mr Mackey was a Sinn Féin councillor in Omagh until he was expelled from the party four months ago over his support for the dissident organisation. He gave the graveside

oration, proclaiming: "As a true republican, Ronan remained loyal and true to the constitution of Ogligh na hEileann when others used and usurped that constitution." It was hardline stuff.

The bombing attempts continued, and security forces were increasingly worried about unclear and insufficient warnings. They believed the Real IRA was working closely with the Continuity IRA and INLA, whose claim to have bombed Newtonhamilton, in south Armagh, on the eve of June's assembly elections rang hollow. It has next to no bomb expertise.

Police swooped on a BMW in Dun Laoghaire, south of Dublin, in April. It was carrying a massive bomb and its driver was preparing to drive on to the Holyhead ferry. They also last month foiled a plot to bomb London, with the arrests of four youngsters, fuelling speculation that the Real IRA was recruiting the raw and naive.

A republican dissident said yesterday: "In this type of war you always sail close to the wind. It has to be a highly developed organisation to prevent it. Time and again, the IRA messed up, and the level of competence in the Real IRA is nowhere near as good. It was, without doubt, a disaster waiting to happen."

Security forces doubt the excuse of ineptitude. Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, said of the false warnings which led police to move shoppers into the blast's path: "This can only have been deliberate. No ifs. No buts."

مكتبة المجلد

Omagh massacre

'That's what I do to cattle, I herd them into the slaughterhouse. But Jesus save us, to happen to Mary and Avril?'

A family without women

Rory Carroll on loss of three generations of farming clan

UNTIL 3pm on Saturday the fields around Omagh had for 100 years given the Grimes family what they wanted most: roots, a place to raise their young and stay together. Such was the success of their dairy farm, neighbours joked about the Catholic family becoming a dynasty. No one will make the joke again. Saturday's bomb ripped through three generations: Mary, aged 85, her daughter Avril, aged 30, and Avril's three children. Only one of these last, 18-month-old Maura, will appear on the casualty list, for Avril was pregnant with twins. Yesterday a convoy of cars with ash-faced relatives churned the muddy path to the Grimes's farm, on top of a hill in the townland of Cooley, one mile from the village of Beragh, seven from Omagh. The deaths of Avril and her infants had yet to be confirmed but hope was draining with every minute. Mick, Mary's husband and Avril's father, was unable to speak. He could only sit and mourn his wife and prepare to mourn his daughter and grandchildren. Only two days ago he was his typical self, cracking jokes and planning his next project. A prosperous farmer and the publisher of the local magazine, he was an important man in Beragh, the closest they had to a first citizen. If something needed sorting, he was your man. Mary kept a good home and all the children turned out well. In their world, they had it made. What sounded like a clap of thunder could be heard on the hill on Saturday, but work continued until a radio newsreader, hesitantly, said there was talk of injured. Workmen resumed hosing the yard and looking after the

animals yesterday, but inside the house the Grimes just hugged and cried. Few had slept the night before. One of Avril's brothers emerged briefly, his eyes and voice raw. "We can't talk. Nothing's been confirmed yet, we've got to wait for confirmation." Dark-haired, pretty, Avril was vivacious and had thrown herself into community work, youth clubs and charity fund-raising. She had a good word to say about everyone, a farm employee said, suddenly appalled he had avoided the present tense. His colleague, younger, added: "Lovely, that's the word for her, lovely, like her mother. Loads of energy, always doing things." Avril married young and became Mrs Monaghan, but did not move far, just down the road to Augher. She had three children before Maura, but this pregnancy would produce her first twins. It is not known why Avril was in the centre of Omagh on Saturday — possibly to show Maura her first festival, possibly to buy school uniforms for her other children. Her mother Mary often went shopping downtown, picking up bargains in Dunne's Stores. Neighbours said she originally came from Cork but settled in the opposite end of the island after falling in love with Mick. Though spirited, they were not the sort of women to flout the police during a bomb warning. They would be sensible and follow the advice, so like hundreds of others they were herded towards the bomb. One man, tears streaming down his face, said it was the most savage end. "That's what I do to cattle, I herd them into the slaughterhouse. But Jesus save us, to happen to Mary and Avril?"



Grieving residents waiting outside an information point for news of victims. Above right, one of the dead, Ann McCombe. PHOTOGRAPH: PETER MORRISON



'Lovely, that's the word for her, lovely, like her mother. Loads of energy, always doing things'

A friend on Avril Monaghan, who died in the blast — along with her mother and her unborn twins

'I saw my wife face down in the rubble. She had no pulse'

THE VICTIMS / Father weeps as he tells how his rugby-mad son lost a leg in the explosion

Rory Carroll and Henry McDonald

THE Skelton family makes only two trips a year into Omagh town centre during busy Saturday afternoons. Once just before Christmas, the other in mid-August when they buy uniforms for their children going back to school. Kevin Skelton had just left his wife Philomena and daughters Paula, aged 18, Tracey, 15, and Shauna, 13, in Kells outitters — the main shop selling school uniforms in Omagh — when the bomb went off. "I heard the explosion and ran into the street. It was as if the entire shop had fallen out. Then I saw my wife, she was lying in the rubble. She was face down, her clothes had been blown off her. I felt for her pulse but there was none," Mr Skelton said. Paula and Tracey escaped unscathed but Shauna was taken to the local hospital where she had a brace fitted to her jaw due to facial injuries. "I knew Philomena was dead but I still had to go out and officially identify her last night at half past nine," said Mr Skelton, aged 43, a prominent Gaelic football referee in County Tyrone. He met his wife when he was just 15 and they married four years later. Philomena would have been 40 on September 1.

LINDSAY Hall wept as he described how his 12-year-old son Alastair lost a leg in the blast. The father of three was at home when he found out that his wife Gwen and Alastair had been caught in the carnage. Alastair was airlifted to a

hospital in Londonderry and his mother was taken there for treatment for multiple fractures and facial injuries. "How could they do this to innocent, ordinary people on a Saturday afternoon?" Mr Hall said as he watched the latest TV news pictures of the tragedy. Mr Hall appeared a broken man, a world away from the image of him standing smiling with his children on photographs adorning the walls in his house. He produced a rugby ball from the 1991 World Cup and said: "Alastair loved playing but he will never be able to again." "He was out with his mum, buying some trousers for going back to school, when the warning came. They came out of the shop and tried to get to the car. If they'd stayed in the shop they would have been killed." "He's only 12, I'm 67, why couldn't it have happened to me?"

SEVENTEEN-year-old Brenda Logue had recently asked her neighbour Sean McAnespie for work on his mushroom farm near Lough Macrory — a republican stronghold a few miles outside Omagh. Yesterday morning Brenda lay dead in a makeshift morgue at an army camp. She had left her mother and grandmother in a shop to see if people were fleeing, when she was caught in the full force of the blast. Her father Tommy, a truck driver, was told of her death yesterday but said: "I knew all along. I knew because the front of the shop was blown out and nobody could survive that."



The mother and brother of victim Brenda Logue

Brenda was a popular outgoing girl who played in goal for her village's ladies Gaelic football team, St Theresa's. Yesterday her family broke down inside Omagh leisure centre, which was being used as an incident centre collating information about the dead and injured. The Logues, including Brenda's youngest brother and her twin Cathel, had to be

assisted by Red Cross volunteers out of the building after officially identifying Brenda.

Sean McAnespie watched from a distance inside the centre. "She was a fun-loving type of girl, she would have done anything for anyone. She asked me for a job recently, she was willing to earn her keep. She was a first class girl," said Mr McAnespie, who is a Sinn Féin councillor for the area where Brenda grew up.

MANY of the dead and injured came from villages such as Lough Macrory and nearby Carrickmore — both areas with a strong support base for Sinn Féin. Rumours about who had been killed were flying so thick and fast that survivors were included on original death lists. Local publican J Maguire was caught in the explosion. Many people who visited the leisure centre yesterday were astounded to see him alive. He has owned The Cozy Corner bar at the bottom of Market Street, where the bomb went off, for 16 years. Elizabeth Rush, who owns

the fancy goods shop next door, was killed. Mr Maguire said: "The walls just came down around me. People were lying about everywhere yet when I got up I realised I was not even injured, but Elizabeth next door was dead. Shortly afterwards it was reported around town that I had been killed. But as you can see, here I am." Mr Maguire is one of the lucky few. The walls of the Omagh leisure centre are covered with the names of the hundreds injured in the atrocity.

NO ONE section of the Omagh community has escaped the tragedy. Fred White, aged 60, an officeholder in the local Omagh Unionist Association, died along with his son Bryan. It is understood the dead also include the teenage daughter of a local police officer. According to his friend and colleague, local Unionist MP Willie Thompson, Mr White had gone to town to buy provisions after returning from holiday abroad on Saturday.

SAMANTHA McFarland, a 17-year-old student at Strabane College of Further Education, died while out shopping with her mother, who is still missing. The young student's aunt, Rita Ewing, described her niece as a "happy, happy, very pretty girl who loved her parents and her family". Mrs Ewing, who originally comes from Omagh, said she was neither Unionist nor nationalist but bitterly criticised the British for "giving everything to the criminals".

Another student who died was Julianne Hughes, 21, from a Scottish university, who was working during the summer in one of the Omagh shops which caught the full impact of the blast.

Spanish boy and teacher first foreign casualties

David Sharrock in Madrid

IT took nearly 30 years of violence before foreign visitors to Northern Ireland died as a result of terrorism.

Rocio Abad Ramos, aged 28, a teacher in charge of a group of 28 Spanish schoolchildren visiting Omagh's summer festival, and Fernando Elasco Basciga, believed to be 13 years old, were the victims. They died with three boys from Donegal, Sean McLaughlin and James Barker, both aged 15, and his neighbour Oran Doherty, aged eight, the sons of families who had been hosting the Spanish pupils in Buncrana.

The five victims were among a group of 43 who had been on a bus excursion to the Ulster American Folk Park. Before returning home they decided to travel the few miles into Omagh to shop. Father Shane Bradley, who comes from Omagh, announced the names of the five during mass in Buncrana's St Mary's Oratory. He said: "It's three and a half years since I arrived in Buncrana and not in my wildest nightmares thought I would have the task I have today."

A Garda officer in Buncrana said: "The shopping was a last-minute decision. The town is stunned." Twelve other children on the trip were being treated in hospitals around Northern Ireland, none believed to be gravely injured.

Spain's foreign minister, Abel Matutes, and vice-president, Francisco Alvarez Cascos, were preparing last night to fly to Omagh. An advance party of families of the victims and injured — most of whom live in or near Madrid — was being flown home yesterday.

Omagh massacre

In the window lay a dead baby, almost stripped of its clothing by the blast, its pushchair still standing nearby



A video shot by an amateur cameraman in the centre of Omagh on Saturday afternoon captures the full horror of the moments after a peaceful market town was shattered by the car bomb that wreaked devastation and killed dozens of people

'The whole thing is so terrible, so

THE ATTACK / Stuart Millar and Henry McDonald on how terrorists brought death to an ordinary Saturday afternoon

ALITTLE after 3pm and the winding streets of Omagh were packed, even by the standards of a fine August Saturday afternoon. Parents had come into the centre of the Co Tyrone market town to drag children around the shops in search of new uniforms for the new school term. Other families strolled around, waiting for a street carnival involving hundreds of Protestant and Catholic youngsters. It was also a Catholic feast day.

Then came the warning. Around 2.30pm the Ulster Television newsroom in Belfast received a call claiming that a bomb would go off near the courthouse at the end of Omagh's High Street. The male caller said he was from

Omagh na hEireann — the "Real IRA". A minute later, the security forces were dispatched to the scene to begin the well-practised task of sealing off the area. Among the shoppers in the town centre, the operation was greeted more with dismay than serious concern. This was a town the Troubles had more or less passed by, a place where Protestants and Catholics had lived side by side for 30 years. There had been some scares in the past: in 1995 a small bomb exploded outside the court house, but even then the only casualty was a security guard who was treated for shock. On Saturday, few believed there was any real danger. After all, there had been a warning.

In Gallagher's bar, landlady Patricia Gallagher telephoned her husband Micky to tell him about the alert before making her way to the police cordon at the junction of Market Street and Dublin Road. To the dozens already waiting there, the evacuation was a minor inconvenience before they got back to the serious business. Twenty-five minutes later, their Saturday afternoon disappeared under the rubble of their town centre as a massive blast ripped families and buildings apart. The explosion came not from the courthouse but at the other end of town, yards from the spot where Mrs Gallagher and the others had been sheltered for safety. None of them had paid much attention to a maroon Vauxhall Astra parked nearby, close to SD Kells' drapery shop. As a result, the 500lb bomb hidden inside it brought instant and horrific devastation.

"When I heard the bang I went straight to the courthouse where they said the bomb was but it wasn't there," said Mr Gallagher, aged 36, who had expected the main event of the weekend to be the celebrations for the couple's 16th wedding anniversary. "Then I realised it was further down and I started to see all the chaos and the injured people. To think they ran into that bomb, it's terrible." His wife survived, but suffered extensive shrapnel wounds, fractures and a neck injury. She was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

When the dust and smoke cleared, the scene that greeted survivors was appalling. People lay dead all around, surrounded by the twisted wreckage of buildings and cars. The staff of one shop were wiped out. Water spraying from burst water mains carried blood over the debris, occasionally exposing limbs torn from bodies by the force of the blast. In the window of Kells' lay a dead baby, almost stripped of its clothing by the blast, its pushchair still standing nearby.

Dorothy Boyle, aged 59, wept as she described the victims, including a young pregnant woman who had lost her legs and a woman in a wheelchair screaming for help. "I saw bodies lying everywhere. I saw them being put in bags and being zipped up. There was one boy had half his leg blown off and it was lying there with the wee shoe still on it. He didn't cry or anything. He was just in shock."

seconds, moving away from the seat of the blast shortly before the bomb exploded. "It was just total devastation. Human bodies were torn to pieces. I saw a two-year-old child and there was smoke coming out of its body." "There was just so much screaming. I never thought I would see anything like it in my life," said another man. With telephone lines destroyed and the death toll rising, panic set in. The instinct for desperate relatives was to rush into the rubble to search for missing loved ones but police forced them back, throwing a cordon of Land Rovers around the area. Louis Godfrey, aged 18, said: "There was one girl about 21 who just sat there hugging this wee fella who was dead. He was about eight years old. She didn't want to let him go. She kept saying over and over, 'What has he ever done to anybody? He's so young.' Eventually a policeman persuaded her to let go."

People began helping the emergency services to pull wounded from the rubble. At first, there had been so much destruction and injury that officers, many covered in blood, were uncertain where to begin. Then they began treating the most seriously injured. They found one man whose leg had been blown off, and, believing him to be dead, began to cover him with a curtain. Then he coughed. He was put into a police car and taken to hospital. A girl was found alive, trapped down a manhole that had collapsed under the force of the explosion. The dead were taken to an army base outside the town, which had been turned into a makeshift morgue, while local hospitals — the South Tyrone and the Tyrone County — prepared to deal with unprecedented numbers of casualties. They were ferried there by any means available: a fleet of ambulances, helicopters, taxis, even two buses commandeered by a local councillor. An appeal for help was issued to local GPs, and medical staff on holiday were urged to return to work, while staff were drafted in from across Northern Ireland. In an attempt to deal with the enormous number of casualties, some of the wounded were taken to hospitals elsewhere in the province — Anagallin, Londonderry, Danganon, the Royal Victoria, and the Erne in Enniskillen. Others suffering from hand injuries and torn tendons were taken to the Ulster Hospital in Dundonald. Doctors and nurses were confronted by people suffering horrifying injuries, including several with missing limbs. At Tyrone County, which dealt with 148 casualties, two of the medical staff tending the wounded saw their children brought in among the injured. One of them was severely hurt. In the casualty department there was chaos, with injured people on floors, mattresses and chairs. While a Catholic priest, Fr John Gilmore, offered last rites to the most seriously hurt, staff cleaned blood from trolleys in preparation for the next influx.

Thirty years of violence in Northern Ireland

December 1971 Ulster Volunteer Force kills 15 people when McGurk's bar in Belfast is bombed.
January 1972 Bloody Sunday. Parachute Regiment shoot dead 13 people taking part in a banned civil rights march in Londonderry.
February 1972 Seven killed when the IRA exploded a bomb outside the officers' mess of 16 Parachute Brigade, in Aldershot.
July 1972 Twenty-two IRA bombs explode in Belfast, killing a total of nine people.
February 1974 Twelve die in the M62 coach bombing.
May 1974 IRA bombs in Dublin and Monaghan kill 31 on the same day.
November 1974 Two IRA bombs in Birmingham pubs kill 21.
August 1975 UVF kills three members of the Miami Showband.
October 1975 UVF launches a series of attacks leaving 12 dead in Northern Ireland.
February 1978 IRA firebombs set hotel ablaze near Belfast, killing 12.
March 1978 IRA bomb kills Airey Neave, Tory Northern Ireland spokesman, at House of Commons car park.
August 1979 An IRA bomb kills 18 soldiers at Warrenpoint, Northern Ireland.
July 1982 Eleven soldiers die in IRA bomb attacks in Hyde Park and Regent's Park.
October 1984 Five killed in IRA bomb attack on Grand Hotel, Brighton, during Tory Party conference.

December 1982 IRA bomb destroys the Droppin' Well Bar in Ballykelly, killing 17 people, including 11 British soldiers.
December 1983 IRA kills six with a bomb at Harrods.
November 1987 11 civilians killed at Enniskillen during a Remembrance Day service.
March 1988 Three IRA members shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar. At their Belfast funeral, loyalist Michael Stone kills three mourners. Four days later two soldiers who drove into the funeral of IRA man killed by Stone are lynched and shot dead.
September 1989 Eleven Royal Marine bandmen killed in bombing of Marine school of music at Doel.
January 1992 Seven Protestant construction workers killed by IRA bombs at Tesco's Crossroads in County Tyrone.
October 1993 IRA bomb in fish shop in Shankill Road, Belfast, kills 10 and injures 53.
October 1993 Seven die in a bar frequented by Catholics and Protestants in Greysteel near Londonderry. The Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) claim responsibility.
July 1996 Three young brothers killed in Loyalist firebombing of their home in Ballymore, County Antrim.
August 1996 A bomb in the village of Banbridge, 25 miles south-west of Belfast, injures 35. The Real IRA splinter group claims responsibility.
August 1996 Car bomb in Omagh kills 26 people. The single deadliest attack in Northern Ireland in 30 years of sectarian violence.

MI5 holds key to the security line

INTELLIGENCE / Surveillance and informers underpin the forces' fight, writes Richard Norton-Taylor

LESS than three weeks ago, in a booklet spelling out its past activities and new priorities, MI5 described the continuing threat posed by terrorists in Northern Ireland. MI5, it said, "monitors closely any changes in the nature and level of the threat, including that posed by groups opposed to the peace process (such as the recently created 32 County Sovereignty Committee) and makes adjustments to the effort deployed accordingly".

The RUC and the army are deployed in response to what they call the "perceived threat" derived from intelligence-gathering through informers and surveillance, and analysing that intelligence. Decisions on deploying extra troops and police are taken by the RUC and Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, on advice of the security and intelligence services. Army patrols have been scaled down in the year leading up to the peace agreement, mainly in areas such as west Belfast where the IRA was unchallenged. In other areas, notably South Armagh, the army has increased its presence — recently, for ex-

ample, setting up barriers in the town of Bessbrook. The number of soldiers based in Northern Ireland has been kept at about 17,000. The pattern of patrols in Omagh — where there are about 1,000 soldiers — had not changed, an army spokesman said yesterday. He added: "The only way to stop car bombs is to seal the place off." Without an intelligence warning of every impending attack, that means permanently. Ronnie Fanning, the RUC chief constable, made clear yesterday he believed the 32 County Sovereignty Committee and its terrorist wing — the Real IRA — were responsible for the Omagh bomb. A spokeswoman for the Sovereignty Committee has denied the allegation. But while the security services have their suspicions as to who was behind the Omagh bombing they do not have enough evidence for the police to make arrests and bring charges. MI5 believes that Real IRA has worked with two other extreme republican groups — Continuity IRA and INLA — in recent operations, including terrorist attacks on London last month that were averted at the last minute. The failed attacks followed a "rejectionist terror summit" in Dundalk between INLA, the Continuity IRA and the Real IRA. The London arrests, including those of three Irish students in their twenties, made it clear that those involved in the planned attacks had been under close surveillance. But, according to police sources, the security services had also been tipped off by an informer. The Omagh attack suggests those responsible had been extremely careful in taking counter-intelligence measures, perhaps having learnt from the London episode. And though the Omagh bombing is likely to lead to moves by the IRA on decommissioning weapons, the security services know that the dissident groups still have explosives, including Semtex, at their disposal. Explosives, the security services say, pose more of a threat to civilian life than do firearms. And they have consistently said that it is not weapons which are the problem so much as the intention to use them. The attack on Omagh is likely to lead to further calls for changes in anti-terrorism legislation so that the leaders of groups suspected of committing attacks can be arrested, not just those individuals against whom there is evidence of direct responsibility.



A soldier stands guard at the Omagh bomb site yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN CHUNG

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Omagh massacre

'I condemn this atrocity unequivocally and without reservation'

John Kelly, Sinn Féin Assemblyman



The body of a victim is carried from the scene in another photograph taken from video shot by an amateur cameraman



so **stupid, so foolish, so senseless'**

"When I arrived at the hospital there were so many people injured one didn't know where to start," said Dominic Pinto, the senior consultant surgeon.

Meanwhile, people were making their way up the blood-covered steps to endure the tortuous wait for news of their relatives or friends. Faces glazed with shock and tension, they listened as nurses read out a long list of the injured, whole families at a time in many cases. For some there was relief as the name they had been waiting for was finally read. For others, the agony of waiting continued.

"I've never seen so much blood in my life," said Agnes Mullin, who spent an hour at the hospital searching for her daughter. "It was on the faces, on the seats, everywhere." She eventually found her daughter uninjured at a friend's house.

There were similar scenes at the Omagh leisure centre, hurriedly converted into a field hospital to cope with the aftermath of the blast.

Throughout the night, the centre was crowded as relatives of the dead and maimed struggled to come to terms with their loss, while those still awaiting news of loved ones continued their grim vigil. Occasionally, a family rushed sobbing from the room as news of the latest deaths arrived. Many existed through the night on a diet of cigarettes and tea distributed by volunteers.

By yesterday morning the horror and confusion had been replaced by an all-embracing sense of shock, but the death toll continued to rise. Tommy Logue had waited all night to hear whether his daughter Brenda, aged 17, was among the dead. When confirmation finally came, it was no surprise. "I knew all along that she was dead," he said.

The tragedy was underlined when an ambulance transferring victims between hospitals collided with a car, killing the driver.

While the security services resumed the grim search for bodies buried under the rubble and worked on identifying

'It was the nearest thing to a horror movie that I've ever witnessed. Kids, blood streaming from the heads. I'll never forget it. I've been through 11 bombs but nothing like this. I'm still completely numb'

the dead, politicians joined social workers, police and medical staff at the leisure centre to offer comfort to those whose loved ones had been killed.

Among them was John Kelly, a Sinn Féin Assemblyman. Mr Kelly was once a leading IRA figure, setting up the Provisionals in 1968 with the aid of elements within the then Irish government. Signifi-

cantly, he used the word Irish republicans have refused to utter throughout three decades of conflict: *condemn*.

"I condemn this atrocity unequivocally and without reservation," he said.

His presence there was ostensibly because he is an Assembly member for the nearby Mid-Ulster constituency as well as being chairman of the local tourist development agency — a far cry from the days of revolutionary armed struggle.

But his presence and his outright condemnation of other republicans — those who carried out the Omagh atrocity — personifies the seismic shift within the mainstream Sinn Féin-Provisional IRA movement. By condemning the Real IRA's action Mr Kelly, Gerry Adams and others have crossed an important ideological rubicon. After this it will be difficult for them in the future not to condemn further acts of violence by other republicans.

Mr Kelly could not resist alluding to a possible conspiracy theory behind the bomb.

"This was done to cause the maximum amount of damage. Just two weeks ago we were discussing the possibility of a bomb in a nationalist town. I don't think people should overlook the possibility of a malevolent hand, possibly elements within the security forces, being behind this."

But the real reason may be much more prosaic. Local republicans said they believed the bomb had been left by people they described as "amateurs" who probably gave the wrong location for the bomb.

Mr Kelly called on the Real IRA to end its armed campaign. "They should stop now because it's just damaging the prospects of a final settlement. You're going against the entire wishes of all republicans."

His comments yesterday demonstrated how Irish history appears to be repeating itself, an echo of the line from the old Official IRA leadership in 1969 who warned the fledgling Provisionals about the dangers of continuing the armed struggle.

But most in the town yesterday were more consumed by the personal impact of the atrocity than by its politics. Few had slept but many families made the journey to the cluster of churches at the top end of the town to mourn the dead.

More than 800 people turned out for the early mass in St Joseph's hall beside the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart. There, they prayed for Geraldine Breslin, a young married parishioner, who died in hospital in the early hours of yesterday.

As members of the congregation sat with their heads in their hands or stared straight ahead, Fr Michael Keaveny told them: "From the point of view of the people who suffered there was no distinction, Catholic and Protestant,

young and old, there was no question of wanting to get one side rather than another. The whole thing sounds so terrible, so stupid, so foolish, so senseless."

Patrick Darcy, a parishioner, said: "I feel diminished as an Irishman that other Irishmen could come to this town and scatter the blood of Irishmen, women and children over these streets."

Another, Damien Turbitt, had been in his hairdresser's shop when the bomb exploded nearby. "It was the nearest thing to a horror movie that I've ever witnessed. Kids, blood streaming from the heads. I'll never forget it."

He had not slept — "We all just paced the floor all night" — and still could not take in what had happened. "I've been through 11 bombs but

nothing like this. I'm still completely numb."

At Omagh Presbyterian church, inside the security cordon, the 300-strong congregation exchanged stories of the horror each of them had gone through after the explosion. Darryl Simpson became separated from the rest of his family and spent two hours checking bodies to find them. "It seems selfish talking about it now but it was all I could think about at the time. All of our family, all nine of us, stayed together in the one bedroom last night."

Outside the church, friends embraced, a sombre celebration of the fact that they were still alive. It was, said one man, an occasion when the phrase "Good to see you" took on a whole new meaning.

Attack founded on change in tactics

THE BOMB / Terrorists may have beaten security ring by new route, wrote John Mullin and Stuart Millar

DETECTIVES in the Irish Republic said last night they believed the maroon Vauxhall Astra used in the bomb attack on Omagh was stolen in County Monaghan.

That marks a departure from recent practice by the Real IRA. It had taken to stealing cars and preparing devices in Northern Ireland after a series of successful interceptions by the Gardaí.

Since the group carried out its first bomb attack, on the mainly Protestant village of Markethill, Co Armagh, last September, the Gardaí and RUC have intercepted 10 attempts, seizing around 7,500lb of explosives. Last month, the RUC intercepted a 1,400lb bomb in Moy, Co Tyrone, believed to be intended for Armagh city centre.

Saturday's bomb was south of home-made explosives. It used a timer device, an old-fashioned method typical of the Real IRA, which still has little access to sophisticated technology.

The Real IRA has few weapons, and so has mounted only one shooting in Northern Ireland in the past year. It has instead concentrated on bomb and mortar attacks, with varying success.

Six bombs have exploded, while another six have failed to ignite. But security forces have grown increasingly worried that the warnings have been insufficient. They believe this is a deliberate ploy, culminating in the police's decision, based on the warning call to the UTV newsroom in Belfast, to gather Saturday afternoon shoppers close to where the bomb was planted.

They say the warnings for the devices which exploded in

The Real IRA may have established a secure bomb making operation

Newtonhamilton, south Antrim, on the eve of June's assembly elections, and two weeks ago in Banbridge, Co Down, were designed to cause confusion. About 60 people were injured, none seriously, in the two incidents as police scrambled to clear the areas.

The Real IRA has favoured using BMWs, with their large boots, for transporting devices. It has also used 4x4 ve-

hicles on four of the recent occasions.

The Gardaí had long believed that the Real IRA was capable of pulling off a devastating explosion. After a series of setbacks, when its operations were intercepted by the Garda Special Branch, it appeared to have established a secure bomb-making operation in the border area.

While it is not thought to have access to the Provisional IRA's two tonne stockpile of Semtex, the Real IRA has been mounting bomb and mortar attacks once a fortnight over the past few months. It has formed an alliance with the Continuity IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army, which was allowed to claim the Newtonhamilton device as its own.

The group includes capable bomb-making figures. Two of the Provisionals' top electrical engineers, who assemble the circuit boards and timer-power units, are believed to have gone over to the new group. The experience and skills — the "fingerprints" — of former senior Provisional bomb-makers have become evident in explosives intercepted at Dumdalk and Dun Laoghaire.

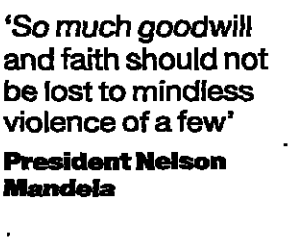
The bombs are primarily made from the traditional IRA "home-made" ingredients of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and sugar. They are super-charged by Semtex booster charges, and with coils of plastic tubing containing powdered Semtex.

What world leaders said



'I hope people of goodwill will not yield to violence [but] preserve the co-operation on which the country depends'

Pope John Paul



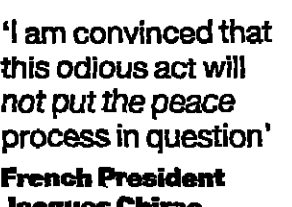
'So much goodwill and faith should not be lost to mindless violence of a few'

President Nelson Mandela



'On behalf of every American, I condemn this butchery and hope the culprits will be brought to justice'

President Bill Clinton



'I am convinced that this odious act will not put the peace process in question'

French President Jacques Chirac

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Man detained by Pakistan confesses to helping build the devices that tore the embassies apart

Bomb suspect extradited

Suzanne Goldenberg in Lahore and Julian Borger in Jerusalem

THE Pakistani government confirmed yesterday that it has arrested and extradited a man who confessed to planning the bombing of the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the first breakthrough for investigators since the double attack on August 7.

A foreign ministry statement said Mohammed Sadik Howaida was detained at Karachi airport when he arrived from Nairobi on the day of the bombings.

Intelligence officials said he was deported to Kenya on August 14, accompanied by FBI agents.

Mr Howaida aroused the suspicion of immigration officials because he did not match the details in his passport, which described the bearer as "a bearded man with substantial build". Mr Howaida is said to be clean-shaven and slight.

The Pakistani police said that under interrogation Mr Howaida, aged 33, confessed to designing and helping to build the bombs used at Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, which killed 257 people.

According to local newspaper reports, he told the police that two other men involved in the attacks had arrived in Pakistan undetected and travelled to neighbouring Afghanistan.

"On satisfaction about his involvement in these terrorist acts, he was sent back to Nairobi and handed over to the Kenyan authorities for appropriate action under their law," the foreign ministry said.

Press reports said Mr Howaida told his interrogators that the bombings were the product of years of planning. He said he had lived in Kenya for three years, in Mombasa and Nairobi.

The Pakistani foreign minister, Sartaj Aziz, said: "He was trying to transit through here, he was just using the channel, he had a Yemeni passport. Probably he was trying to go to Afghanistan; that is a suspicion. He had no other links here."



Relatives prepare to lower the coffin of US embassy employee Phaedra Vrontomitzi at a cemetery near Nairobi on Saturday. PHOTOGRAPH: ANTONY NALIGUNA

Mr Aziz said it was uncertain whether Mr Howaida had links to the Taliban Islamist militia, which controls all but a few pockets of Afghanistan.

Neither the Pakistani government nor the local press said what nationality Mr Howaida is or who he was working for. But if he was heading for Afghanistan it would deepen the suspicion that the double bomb attack was masterminded by Osama Bin Laden, a Saudi millionaire and Islamic militant living under Taliban protection in Afghanistan who made several threats against the United States earlier this year.

Meanwhile US officials said a Kenyan guard at the US embassy in Nairobi identified a photograph shown to him by the FBI as someone he had seen at the bombing. The official did not identify the person in the photograph. But some US newspapers said yesterday that it was one of Mr Bin Laden's known associates.

Using his family's fortune earned in the Middle East construction trade, Mr Bin Laden built up a private army

of Islamic zealots in the early 1980s to fight the Russian occupation of Afghanistan. Since then he is reported to have financed a wide range of fundamentalist groups.

Earlier this year he formed "The Islamic Front for Holy War against Jews and Crusaders" to wage war on Israel and the US. One of its affiliates, the Egyptian Islamic Jihad organisation, threatened an attack on US interests only days before the bombings.

Mr Bin Laden is wanted by the US for questioning about

several terrorist attacks on American outposts, including the bombing of barracks in Riyadh and Dharan in Saudi Arabia in 1996, and the World Trade Centre in New York in 1993.

Like the Saudi attacks, the devastating 1993 attack on the marines headquarters in Beirut also remains unsolved, reflecting the ease with which Islamic militants could disappear in states sympathetic to their cause. Pakistan's arrest and extradition of a suspect on this occasion suggests that these circumstances may be

changing in favour of the US. The state department has offered a \$2 million reward for information on those involved in the bomb attacks.

"We are against terrorism, and we want to co-operate fully," Mr Aziz said, clearly anxious to counter his country's reputation as a conduit for extremists sheltering in Afghanistan.

"The whole world created a haven in Afghanistan — not just Pakistan, but everyone else... It was a jihad. Everyone was supposed to fight the Russians."

Suzanne Goldenberg in Karachi

WITH his gentle face, and his long beard streaked with grey and white, Mullah Nizamuddin Shamzi would seem a natural object of respect. For the Taliban Islamist militia he is an object of near veneration and his writ is final.

During the past 11 years as an authority on Islamic legal codes at a leading religious seminary in Karachi, he has been tutor to 20 of the men who now rule Afghanistan with a religious fervour that seems drawn from the middle ages.

Mullah Shamzi is unruffled by international condemnation of his puritanism, or critics who ridicule some of the Taliban's injunctions: against television sets, white socks and high heeled shoes for women, and music. "All over the world, there are killings and shootings and mostly that comes from the TV, and so that is why it is not permissible," he said.

Such pronouncements make the mullah the Taliban's supreme authority on the true interpretation of the Islamic codes by which they mean to transform Afghanistan and, if Mullah Shamzi has his way, the rest of the Muslim world.

"Our belief is that the rest of the Muslim states should have such governments, but because of the West's material influence it is hard. I would be very happy if Pakistan were like Kandahar. We would be very happy if such a day comes; we are waiting for that day."

Pakistani support to the Taliban — which Islamabad denies — assumed new importance this month as they swept their opponents from the last of their strongholds, reducing their influence to small pockets of Afghanistan.

It is also certain to come under scrutiny following the arrest of a man suspected of being involved in the bombing of the US embassies in east Africa, who

was believed to be on his way to Afghanistan.

Among Mullah Shamzi's most powerful disciples is the governor of Kandahar, Mullah Mohammed Hassan, whose rule has set the standard even for the Taliban. In his southern fiefdom, Mullah Hassan has ordered couples stoned to death for illicit sexual relations and decreed that gay men should be buried alive under rubble. Earlier this year he threw a cup of tea at a United Nations official, prompting the UN's departure from Kandahar.

Mullah Shamzi last visited Kandahar three weeks ago, and had guests from the Taliban leadership just last week. He says he is an adviser on the constitution they are preparing.

He is also unperturbed by critics — including the UN — that his edicts violate modern ideas of human rights. He argues that the

'Our belief is that all Muslim states should have proper Islamic governments'

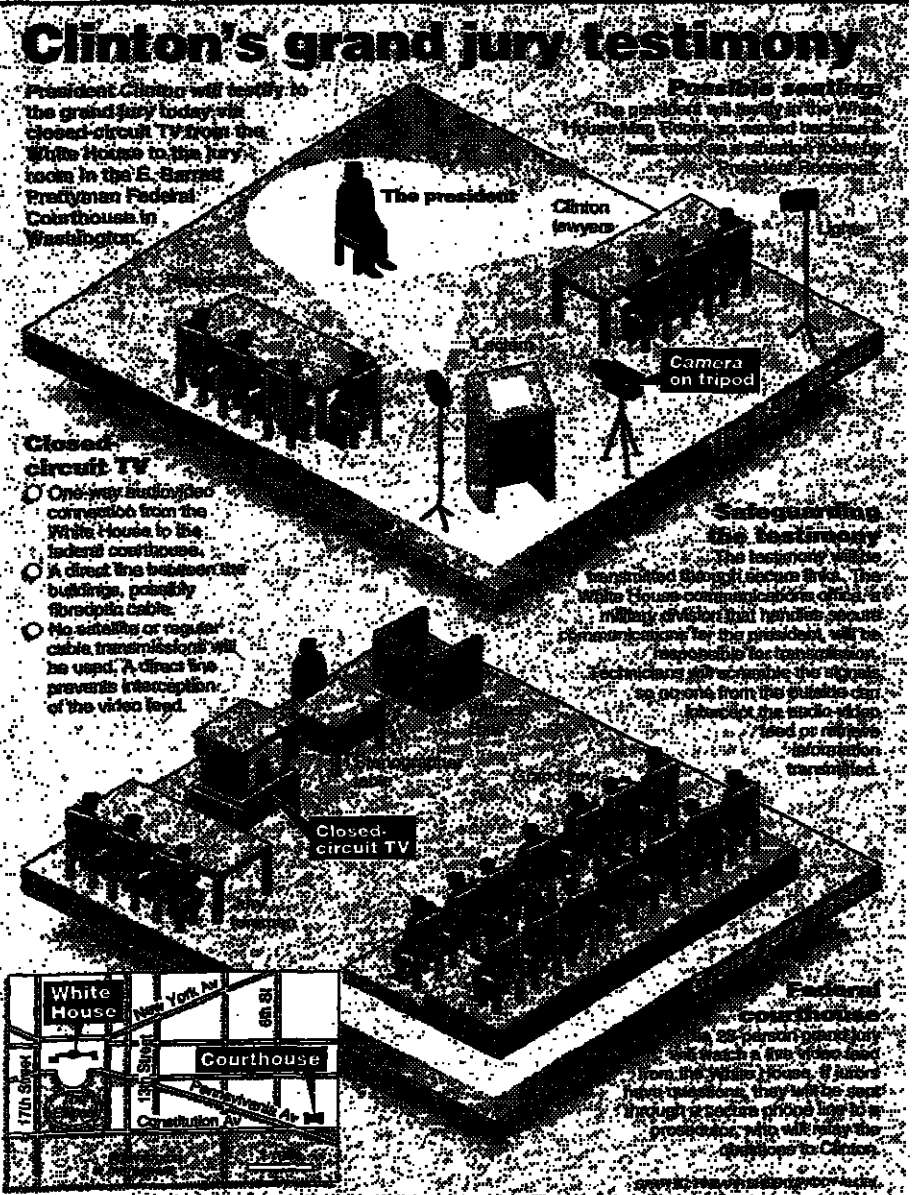
most extreme edicts, such as the ban on girls' education, are a war-time necessity that will change once the Islamist conquest is complete.

"[The Taliban] are moving towards a proper Islamic state. They have not taken over all of Afghanistan but as they do this, then you will see the model state," he says.

But it is uncertain whether the Taliban want to change. Mullah Shamzi can countenance no change to the laws that punish murder with public execution, theft with amputation and adultery with stoning.

"The main objective of law is to bring harmony to the state," he says, arguing that the Afghan capital, Kabul, was a den of crime and sexual perversion before they arrived two years ago.

'The truth is the truth.' But how will Clinton be judged?



Martin Kettle and Gary Younge in Washington

BILL Clinton testifies before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky case today. He faces three broad choices: he can admit having an affair, continue his denial, or steer a course between the two.

Yesterday, as Washington hummed with rumours that he will change his story and admit a sexual relationship, his normally uncommunicative lawyer David Kendall issued a statement.

"There is apparently an enormous amount of groundless speculation about the president's testimony tomorrow," he said. "The truth is the truth. Period. And that's how the president will testify."

Option One: Confession STRATEGY: He admits for the first time, both to the grand jury and the country, that he had an affair with Ms Lewinsky. He confirms her account of the sexual relationship but refuses to go into physical detail. He says he lied during the Paula Jones case to spare his wife and family pain.

He also says he did not ask Ms Lewinsky to lie under oath about the relationship (confirming her version) or cover it up. He stresses that as he cannot run for office again political considerations were not

foremost in his mind. He says he sinned, and asks the American people to forgive him.

ADVANTAGES: Opinion polls show that most Americans believe Mr Clinton had an affair and lied about it, and that if he apologised they would consider it a welcome end to the matter. Several Democratic politicians also want the issue laid to rest before November's elections.

This strategy steals much of the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr's thunder. Faced with denials by all the participants of a cover-up, he has little proof that Mr Clinton obstructed justice or tried to induce perjury. If Mr Starr is left only with Mr Clinton's perjury — and if the president's



The president faces three broad choices as he prepares to testify before the grand jury today

appeal to public opinion succeeds — few congressmen will have the stomach for impeachment proceedings.

DISADVANTAGES: Mr Clinton is more firmly branded a liar, an unfaithful husband and a weak man. It also means the remainder of his presidency is dominated by congressional hearings on Mr Starr's report, containing evidence of perjury. Although they might not end in impeachment, the hearings would be a huge embarrassment and distraction. A confession will also trigger an attempt to reopen the Paula Jones case. It is not clear how firm public support would be if Mr Clinton confessed after his

previous resolute denials. He might find that the public's impatience conceals a feeling that the president has used up his political credit. Mr Clinton could become a lame duck. Those who have stuck by him may stop giving him the benefit of the doubt. His final two years as president could be lonely.

Option Two: Denial STRATEGY: President Clinton sticks to the story he has always told — that he never had sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky and so never asked her to lie about it. In his testimony he goes much further than his supporters have done in public in trying to discredit

her as a witness, accusing her of having a crush on him, of being a stalker and fantasist. He hints at a possible political conspiracy against him, citing Linda Tripp's tapes and Mr Starr's conservative political record.

ADVANTAGES: He has been absolutely clear and consistent. His integrity is legally intact and the episode comes down to a "Who do you believe?" conflict between a star-struck 25-year-old former intern and the president. The bonds of loyalty in the Clinton family and the White House machine are reinforced. The formidable White House spin machine has little difficulty discrediting Ms

Advert cashes in on troublesome stain

Julian Borger in Jerusalem

IT had to happen. The world's most famous stain was crying out for the right detergent to come along. In Israel, a soap-powder claims to solve Monica Lewinsky's laundry problems.

Television advertisements demonstrating how a particular detergent might have rid Ms Lewinsky's infamous blue cocktail dress of its alleged presidential DNA deposit will be shown in Israel today to coincide with Mr Clinton's testimony to the grand jury.

According to a Tel Aviv advertising agency, the advertisement will portray a secret service attempt to zap

the stain. It opens with a car pulling to a halt outside a house in the middle of the night. Two secret agents sneak past a mailbox — clearly labelled Monica Lewinsky — and break in.

The agents make their way to the bedroom, where a picture of the president and Ms Lewinsky is hanging on the wall. Then one of the agents opens the wardrobe and pulls out a stained white evening dress.

One of the agents opens his attaché case and tells the other: "Use the strong stuff." He pulls out a packet of detergent. The dress goes into the washing machine and emerges minus the stain.

Lewinsky. She has already admitted in taped conversations that she "has lied all her life"; a former lover said that not everything she said could be believed; and her previous lawyer, William Ginsburg, said she had a tendency to "embellish".

DISADVANTAGES: Very few Americans believe the denials, so Mr Clinton will be widely assumed to be lying. It also ensures that the saga continues long into the autumn and possibly through next year. Mr Starr's investigation, moreover, may turn up evidence to prove that the president is not telling the truth. If tests on Ms Lewinsky's cocktail dress show traces of the president's semen, he has a lot of explaining to do.

Mr Starr may also have evidence that a secret service agent saw Ms Lewinsky performing oral sex on Mr Clinton in the Oval Office. Such testimony would make all the other circumstantial evidence far more incriminating.

If Mr Starr could prove that the president lied twice, it would not only prolong the scandal but strengthen the talk of impeachment.

Option Three: Wiggle room STRATEGY: Mr Clinton navigates a legal and linguistic minefield in an attempt to concede that he has dissembled rather than lied. Among the almost endless permutations under discussion, two stand out. Both are predicated on an absolute denial of any attempt to suborn perjury or obstruct justice.

In the first, he concedes he allowed Ms Lewinsky to perform oral sex on him, but claims he did not regard it as "sexual relations". Ms Lewinsky is believed to have testified that he said precisely this to her at the time.

In the second, he accepts he had an "inappropriate" relationship with her but denies it was improper. He makes a limited apology for causing confusion. He also refuses to answer detailed questions about sex on the grounds that they invade his right to privacy, in effect challenging Mr Starr to concentrate his investigations on the president's sex life.

ADVANTAGES: This approach could just about maintain the earlier denials, while redefining them in ways that fit more plausibly with the facts. Different audiences would hear what they wanted to hear, but the impression would be conveyed that he was innocent and the truth was not out.

However implausible it may appear, this strategy could make Mr Starr's task too difficult or distasteful to worth pursuing. Mr Clinton would be gambling on the American public being fed up with the Starr investigation and wanting the whole thing to go away.

DISADVANTAGES: The half-truths he admits telling about his private life follow in a long line: allegations of draft-dodging during the Vietnam war, marijuana smoking in the 1960s, and any number of sexual allegations.

Worried about control of the Nile, Cairo has waded into the political battles of its neighbour, writes **David Hirst**

Mubarak risks taking sides in Sudan

THE Sudanese opposition, a broad coalition of African southerners and Arab Muslim northerners known as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), held a conference in Cairo this weekend to plan the next stage of its struggle against the Khartoum government.

It is the first time Egypt has hosted such a gathering, and it is another blow to the Sudanese leader Hassan al-Turabi and his National Islamic Front.

Reports in Cairo suggest that President Hosni Mubarak has decided to start playing a more active role in the affairs of Egypt's vast southern neighbour. He is alarmed by the worsening conditions there, including the widespread famine, the growing scale and complexity of the civil war, and above all the danger Sudan's territorial disintegration poses to Egypt's vital stake in the waters of the Nile.

In recent years Egypt has taken second place to others in relations with the NDA. Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda have supported the alliance's cross-border military operations, while the US, Europe and the African states directly or indirectly involved in the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) have been promoting a peace process between Khartoum and the southern rebels of John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The NDA is mainly composed of the two great traditionalist parties of the north — Sadiq al-Mahdi's Umma and Mohammed al-Mirghani's Khatimiya; various so-called "modern" forces, including communists and army officers; and the SPLA, which is by far the most important element militarily.

Before the conference opened on Saturday, the three main opposition leaders — Mr Mahdi, Mr Mirghani and

Colonel Garang — met President Mubarak, who stressed the "grave dangers" Sudan now faced.

The conference comes follows directly on the collapse of the latest round of IGAD-sponsored talks in Addis Ababa, between Khartoum and the SPLA.

Last year, in a "peace-from-within" deal with a group of southern leaders opposed to Col. Garang, Khartoum accepted in principle the hitherto heretical notion of southern secession.

But although secession is an option officially envisaged in the IGAD negotiations, it appeared to be one thing for Khartoum to grant it to its own protégés, quite another to concede it to a leader of Col. Garang's stature.

The Addis Ababa talks apparently broke down on an SPLA proposal to turn Sudan into a north-south confederation for a two-year transitional period, to be followed by a referendum on southern



Opposition leader Sadiq al-Mahdi, left, and John Garang, centre, held their conference in Cairo. President Mubarak, right, told them that Sudan faced 'grave dangers'.



Opposition leader Sadiq al-Mahdi, left, and John Garang, centre, held their conference in Cairo. President Mubarak, right, told them that Sudan faced 'grave dangers'.



Opposition leader Sadiq al-Mahdi, left, and John Garang, centre, held their conference in Cairo. President Mubarak, right, told them that Sudan faced 'grave dangers'.

self-determination. Among other things, Khartoum objected to Col. Garang's ambitious definition of what constituted the south.

Evidently Cairo saw the talks' collapse as an opportunity to step in. Though generally on bad terms with Khartoum — which it has accused of sponsoring Islamist terrorists — it has been ambivalent about the NDA's military campaign, which has recently spread from the south to the Fort Sudan and Kassala area of the north.

It has not been keen to throw its weight behind a movement which, far from seizing power in Khartoum, might dismember the country. Its nightmare is that control of the Nile's headwaters might fall into hostile hands.

It is doubtful whether

its military strength makes him the key power-broker in Sudan, in respect of both the Khartoum government and his own NDA allies, who in private are deeply apprehensive of the ascendancy which he and the south might acquire in any new order.

Egypt's new-found support for the NDA adds up to unconditional acceptance of its aim of bringing down the Turabi regime, or to supplying it with the arms to do so.

"The important thing," said Omar Nuraldayem of the Umma party, "is that for the first time Cairo has now recognised the opposition. All we want, in any case, is political and diplomatic support. Egypt has great regional weight."

Egypt's support depends on assurances that the NDA will not countenance Sudan's break-up. Cairo needs such promises less from the NDA's northern members, who hold the same fears, than from Col. Garang.

His military strength makes him the key power-broker in Sudan, in respect of both the Khartoum government and his own NDA allies, who in private are deeply apprehensive of the ascendancy which he and the south might acquire in any new order.

In public at least, Egypt got what it wanted. On only his second visit to Cairo since he took command of the SPLA in 1988, Col. Garang said: "I want to assure everyone of our commitment to the unity of Sudan." But he added, it must be "on a new basis".

He probably read more into Cairo's intentions than was justified when he claimed that holding the NDA conference in Cairo rather than its usual Asmara headquarters would send "a signal to our soldiers on different fronts — in southern, eastern and western Sudan".

He added that Egypt had "practically and effectively" joined the Sudanese people's struggle against a regime which could not be "reformed or improved", only "removed".

The Khartoum newspaper al-Jumhuriya said the Turabi government, angered by Egypt's new stance, was threatening to retaliate with a conference of Egypt's "armed [opposition] groups".

Doubts cast on 'jailbreak' of Hamas militant

Julian Borger in Jerusalem

PALESTINIAN and Israeli troops set up road-blocks in the West Bank yesterday after it was announced that a leading Islamic militant had escaped from a Jericho jail, where he was being questioned by the Palestinians about the murder of the Hamas master bomb-maker Muhi al-Din Sharif.

Palestinian security officials said Imad Awadallah escaped on Saturday night, possibly with the help of guards. But human rights activists and the Hamas leadership questioned the official report, and voiced concern for the 29-year-old fugitive's safety.

An Israeli official said the Israeli security forces were sceptical about the escape. "During the cabinet meeting today it came out that our military believe that the circumstances of his escape are suspicious, and that he might have had some help from the Palestinian Authority," the official said.

Since his arrest on April 11, Mr Awadallah has repeatedly denied having a role in Sharif's murder. He was not charged, and claimed he was being tortured by Palestinian General Intelligence officers to get him to confess.

The death of Sharif, known as the Second Engineer, remains a mystery. His bullet-riddled corpse was found

lying beside a burning car on March 29 after an explosion blew apart a garage in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Sharif succeeded Yahya Ayyash, Hamas's original Engineer, who was assassinated by Israeli intelligence in 1996. The Second Engineer was widely accused of masterminding a string of suicide bombings in 1997.

According to the official Palestinian account, Mr Awadallah shot Sharif because Sharif was engaged in a power struggle with Mr Awadallah's elder brother, Adel — another Hamas leader — and ordered Chassan Adasi, a student, to destroy the evidence by planting a bomb in the garage. Mr Adasi has been held without charge in Jericho for more than four months.

Hamas and independent analysts have questioned this version, arguing that the evidence points to a joint operation by the Israeli and Palestinian intelligence services. Yesterday the Hamas founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, questioned whether Mr Awadallah had escaped, saying "How do I know this was not a way to eliminate him?"

Israeli troops were searching cars leaving Jericho, a Palestinian-run enclave in the Jordan Valley. The government's spokesman, David Bar-Ilan, said: "I am awaiting the first hand information from our own intelligence agencies before commenting on this escape."



Women pray for peace at the Army of Victory church in Kinshasa, as rebels claimed to be within 100 miles of the capital and advancing on several fronts. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID GUTTENFELDER

Ports fall as rebels march on Kinshasa

Our correspondent in Kinshasa and Buchirya Mseteka in Matadi

AS REPORTS of Congolese rebel advances towards Kinshasa continued to reach the capital of former Zaire yesterday, the mood in the city remained mainly calm, despite the precipitate flight of most foreigners.

In a serious blow to President Laurent Kabila, Commander Dieudonné Kabengele said the rebels had taken control of the important ports of Matadi and Boma in the West, dismissing government claims that they were still in the hands of troops loyal to Mr Kabila. He said his troops were advancing on Mbanza-Ngungu, about 50 miles south-west of the capital.

"The advance towards Kinshasa is on several fronts. We

have been fighting in some parts on the way, but in other parts forces are rebelling and joining us," he said. "We should be in Kinshasa within a week to be sure."

Witnesses said, after flying with rebels to Matadi, that 300 rebel troops had flown into a large rebel supply base at Kitona and were moving overland to Matadi. Reinforcements are pouring in from the east," said one after a Russian-built troop transporter landed yesterday. Military equipment had also arrived, they said.

Although the make up of the rebels remains unclear, people in Kinshasa are in little doubt about who they hold responsible. "We have been invaded by Rwanda," said François Kabuku, "and we must fight to kick them out. If I am given a weapon then I will fight them myself."

A tide of xenophobia encouraged by the government

Kabila faces a new coalition of political forces

CONGOLESE rebels trying to topple President Laurent Kabila formed a political coalition yesterday, the Rwandan News Agency reported.

The Congolese Democratic Coalition comprises more than 20 military and political leaders, the agency said in a report from Goma in eastern Congo, where the revolt

was launched two weeks ago. The group includes some of the most credible opposition names among the country's fragmented political forces.

The agency said Professor Wamba Dia Wamba was executive secretary of the coalition, which has an executive council of four civilians and four military commanders. The civilian

members include Bizima Karaha, Congo's former foreign minister. The military commanders were not named.

Meanwhile Mr Kabila was reported to have briefly visited the Angolan capital. He was seen arriving at Luanda's airport shortly after the Namibian president Sam Nujoma, arrived. — Reuters.

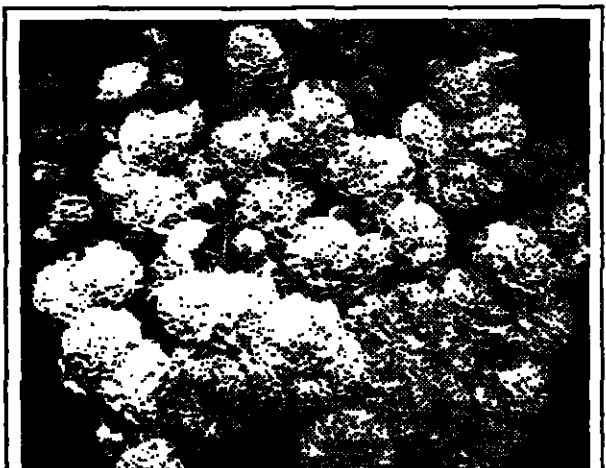
Interment was in the best interests of the country.

"This rebellion is not the same as last year," said Jean Mayamba. Referring to Mr Kabila's victorious arrival in Kinshasa last May, he said: "Last year we waited for him as if we were waiting for a football match, but this time it is as if we are waiting for a funeral."

It remains to be seen how long the people of Kinshasa will continue to back a president who is yet to deliver on many of his promises of economic regeneration.

Pierre Mahanza, aged 32, a teacher, said he supported the manner in which Mr Kabila had dealt with the crisis to date, but added that he had not been paid for six months. "I will fight for Kabila out of love for my country, but I wish he would pay my salary."

Buchirya Mseteka is a correspondent for Reuters.



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Sri Lankans gamble on a night out

Susanah Price in Colombo

AMAL considers himself an expert on British horse racing. Like thousands of Sri Lankans, he spends his evenings glued to the racing beamed live from Britain.

"Every day I come to the betting shop," he said. "I read the form, put on a few bets. A couple of weeks ago I got lucky and picked a winner in the King George at Ascot."

In the Sporting Times betting shop on the Galle Road, crowds of punters queue at the cashiers, while television screens show the latest odds.

"The Sri Lankans love gambling and the English races are the best," said Amal, who refused to give

his surname in case his wife found out where he got to each evening.

Horse racing was banned in Sri Lanka more than 30 years ago — apart from the occasional holiday event in the central hill country — and betting is also outlawed. But successive governments have turned a blind eye to the spiralling number of betting shops.

One of the directors of the Sporting Times, Mahendra Balasuriya, spends his time updating in the plush VIP lounge. The minimum bet is \$3 (£2) and free food and cigarettes are available.

"My father owned a couple of horses when we had racing here, and then started accepting bets on English races," he said.

"Each race looks the same to me but I like to watch to see the English scenery and the people."

"Our selections are good, sometimes we even know better than the English"

lawed. But successive governments have turned a blind eye to the spiralling number of betting shops.

The Sporting Times has nearly 100 shops and also publishes a daily newspaper providing all the information and the odds on the forthcoming races.

Back downstairs, Hamid is poring over his copy of the newspaper, which is covered in scribbled notes.

"Of course we have to

study, even if we only spend one rupee we want to know why we are losing it," he said. "I think our selections are pretty good, sometimes we even know better than the English."

The punters thought the British races were popular because of the colonial heritage, but also because of the time difference.

The Australian ones are broadcast so early you have to get up at 6am," said Lai, another enthusiast, who had seen his horse romp home.

He has been gambling for 20 years and was taking a long-term view of his new riches.

"Today I have won some money but I don't say I have won. I come here so often that I just say I am getting a percentage of my lost money back."

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Eve Boswell

The sugar bush girl

THE career of singer Eve Boswell, who has died aged 76, spanned the eras of big band singing and early television specials of the 1950s, and of sentimental ballads and novelty pop hits. But although she is best remembered for such tempo numbers as *Sugarbush* and *Pickin' A Chicken*, her own musical preference was for the swing era styles of Peggy Lee and Dinah Shore.

She was born Eva Keleti in Budapest into a musical and show business family. Her aunt was vocal coach to the city's opera house, and her parents developed a music hall juggling act, which Eve joined as a teenager — playing piano and dancing. The act, *The Three Hugos*, came to Britain to work in 1938 and made a television appearance on the pilot service pioneered by the BBC.

At the outbreak of the second world war the family fled being interned as enemy aliens and chose to take an offer of work with the Boswell Circus in South Africa. There Eve met and married the stepson of one of the owners, Trevor McIntosh. He encouraged her to develop her vocal talent and remained her manager until his death in 1970. By the mid-1940s, under the name Eve Boswell, she was broadcasting and recording with South Africa's leading dance band, led by Rex Martin.

Copies of her records reached London and so impressed Gerald, Britain's leading bandleader, that he cabled an offer of work with his orchestra. In June 1949 Eve made her debut as one of his four vocalists at the Winter Gardens in front of 6,000 dancers. She made an immediate impact, not least because Gerald made several Light Programme broadcasts each week and made numerous recordings.

Boswell also brought a cosmopolitan glamour to the insular British music scene of the 1950s

metropolitan glamour to the rather insular British music scene. Her Hungarian and South African background set her apart, as did the convincing American accent of her singing, a contrast to the English tones of such rivals as Vera Lynn and Anne Shelton. After two years with Gerald, Boswell opted for a solo career, touring with variety shows, fulfilling numerous radio bookings and becoming a familiar face and voice on such BBC television entertainment shows as *Hit Parade*, *TV Children's Party* and *Off The Record*. When independent television was launched in 1955, she became the first female singer to be given her own series, 15-minute shows on ATV — for which she was paid £1,000 a programme.

During the early 1950s, the record industry was still orientated towards the fastest American hit songs of which British singers were expected to make "cover versions" to compete. Through the Gerald connection, Boswell was signed to EMI's Parlophone label and for most of the decade she released a new single every couple of months. While technically proficient, her cover versions were seldom commercially successful, principally because of the sheer quantity of rival discs. When Parlophone issued her version of Guy Mitchell's US hit *My Heart Cries For You* in 1951, it was one of 15 recordings of the song on the market.

Occasionally, an English singer would be given the first chance to record a new song and Boswell's opportunity came when she was sent a bouncy number from South Africa. *Sugarbush* was issued in 1952 and soon became a favourite in dance halls and on radio. It also had the distinction of being banned from the BBC's *Music While You Work* following reports that assembly-line workers would



Eve Boswell... bringing a cosmopolitan glamour to the insular British music scene of the 1950s

join in its rhythmic chorus by hammering on the nearest surface. The success of the song brought Boswell her only appearance at the Royal Variety Performance, where in 1953 she was billed as "the Sugar Bush Girl".

Her second record success also had a South African connection. *Pickin' A Chicken* had won a song contest there, and with additional lyrics by an expatriate South African, Paddy Roberts, Boswell's spirited rendering reached number nine in the New Musical Express hit parade. The

song had been intended only as the B-side to an American television theme, *Blue Skies*, but *Pickin' A Chicken* was enthusiastically plugged by disc jockey Jack Jackson and sold in considerable numbers.

Boswell herself was ambivalent about her hits and negotiated an agreement with George Martin at Parlophone that she could make LPs of orchestral ballads in return for continuing to record speculative singles aimed at the pop market. The resulting 1957 album, *Sentimental Eve*, was a highly creditable collection

of American-style ballad singing complete with opulent string arrangements by Reg Owen.

Although she made more recordings for Decca in the 1950s, Eve Boswell, like most of her contemporaries, was sidelined in a record market increasingly dominated by younger acts such as Cliff Richard and The Beatles. But she continued to appear in variety, and developed a new career as a vocal coach for budding recording artists.

After the death of Trevor McIntosh, Boswell returned to South Africa, where she married radio producer Henry Holloway and opened a singing school. She made her final British appearance in 1989 on a short tour, which included a Radio 2 concert and an impromptu appearance with a salsa band led by her son, Michael McIntosh.

Dave Leding

Eve Boswell (Eva Keleti), singer, born May 11 1922; died August 14 1998

Robert Tudur Jones

For God and Wales

ROBERT Tudur Jones, who has died aged 77, was one of Wales's foremost academic historians, a life-long Plaid Cymru supporter and a Christian scholar of wide repute.

His first major work, the monumental *Congregationalism in England, 1662-1962*, along with its companion volume, *Hanes Annibynwyr Cymru* (1966), which traced the history of independence in Wales from the Commonwealth to the mid-20th century, secured his reputation, and further works on the protestant reformation, the puritans, and innumerable aspects of the Nonconformist tradition, put him in the front rank of Welsh academics.

Tudur Jones was born in Llanystumdwy, Cricieth — the boyhood home of David Lloyd George — the son of a railwayman. Although they soon moved to the Anglicised seaside town of Rhyl, the family retained firm links with their former locality and upheld its strong Welsh language and Nonconformist culture. Tudur Jones excelled academically at Rhyl County School (where he struck up a life-long friendship with the novelist and fellow Welsh-nationalist Emrys Humphreys) and his growing sense of vocation to Christian ministry led him in 1938 to the University College of North Wales, Bangor.

He took a first in philosophy in 1942, a double distinction in divinity, and completed his DPhil at Mansfield College, Oxford, before spending two semesters at the Protestant Faculty of the University of Strasbourg. He was ordained in 1946 at Selion, the Welsh Congregationalist church in Aberystwyth.

In 1950 Tudur Jones was appointed professor of church history at Bangor College, the Congregationalist seminary which formed part of the university's theological faculty. He was principal from 1955 until the merger of Bangor and the Aberystwyth Memorial College created the United Congregational College in 1958. His most enduring scholarly contribution will probably be the two-volume study of religion and society in Victorian and Edwardian Wales, *Faith and the Crisis of a Nation* (Ffydd ac Argyfwng Cenedl) in 1961, which contains a uniquely perceptive analysis of the religious revival of 1804-5.

Tudur Jones stood as Plaid Cymru parliamentary candidate in Anglesey during the 1950s, and on different occasions edited its newspapers *Y Ddraig Goch* and *The Welsh Nation*. A short volume, *The Desire of Nations* (1975), elucidated his philosophy of humane and warm-hearted cultural nationalism. His uncompromising Free Church membership was always tempered by a gracious catholicity, which appreciated all that was positive in other Christian traditions. He served the International Congregational Fellowship as chairman between 1981-5, was elected moderator of the Free Church Federal Council of England and Wales in 1985-6 and president of the Union of Welsh Independents in 1986-7.

Tudur Jones's commanding personality, his unyielding adherence to what were, for some, unpopular theological and political convictions, combined with sheer intellectual brilliance, made him an intimidating adversary. Yet there were many in Wales, especially between the mid-1960s and 1980s, who were drawn to a radical Christian commitment through his teaching, preaching and writing, and he did much to form educated public opinion in Welsh-speaking Wales. Away from public issues, students and colleagues appreciated his kindness.

His appointment in 1989 to an honorary professorship in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at Bangor afforded him immense satisfaction until his retirement in 1996. A volume of historical essays, *The Power of the Word and the Flame of the Faith* (Pŵer y Gair a Fflam y Ffydd), was already in the press when he died.

Tudur Jones married Gwenllian Edwards, a fellow Bangor student, in 1948, and had two daughters and three sons. All three sons entered the Congregationalist ministry through Rhyl, the eldest, predeceased him.

Dorell Morgan

Robert Tudur Jones, academic and Nonconformist theologian, born June 28, 1921; died July 29, 1998

Letters

Tim Hilton writes: The superlative work of the art historian, Michael Kitson (*Obituary, August 11*) is preserved in the Courtauld Institute's photograph library will often find — handwritten in pencil on the mount of some 17th century Italian paintings — a tentative attribution. The hand is often Anthony Blunt's, more often Michael's.

The connoisseur's eye preceded the art historian's explanations. In 1969, for instance, he recognised the St Proximus of 1655 (private collection, America) was by the young Vermeer. Thus Kitson opened new inquiry about the intellectual formation of a great artist.

He was a wonderful influence at the Courtauld in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the institute's best years. He understood that art history was about to join the contemporary world and would consider any new ideas. All of his writings are valuable. I think his masterpiece was a review of the Poussin exhibition at the Louvre and the Royal Academy, published in the *Burlington Magazine* of January 1968. It was both a salute to Blunt, the former Poussin expert, and an art historian's declaration that we must believe only that which honesty and scholarship allows us to believe.

Timothy Rogers writes: Your obituary of Michael Kitson draws attention to the influence upon him of the way English was studied at Cambridge. Kitson read English at King's, where two of his contemporaries, Francis Haskell and the late Michael Jaffé, also became distinguished art historians.

An important common influence was George Rylands, then director of studies in English. He supervised in rooms in Old Lodge, where, in his 96th year, he still lives. The walls had been decorated by Carrington and closely hung with pictures where not lined with books. The ghosts of Lytton Strachey and Virginia Woolf were ever present. But Rylands was also alive in the present. His teaching was by suggestion rather than direction; opinions, however wild, were sympathetically considered, and progress was a shared if guided journey of discovery. The qualities of his teaching were those I discern also in the reports of Michael Kitson's pupils.

Paul Flamand

Power behind a free French voice

THE death of the French publisher Paul Flamand at the age of 69 coincides with the appearance of a book about Saint Therese of Lisieux by a Jesuit psychoanalyst, Denis Vasse, published by the Editions du Seuil, Flamand's company. It was an appropriate juxtaposition.

That a scientist and a member of a religious order should examine the case of Saint Therese in terms both of her neurosis and of her faith reflects the intellectual, independent Catholicism that Flamand established at Seuil — as were the autobiographical

writings of Saint Therese which Vasse analyses.

Paul Flamand was always reluctant to speak about himself and he never gave interviews. He approved of Bernard Shaw's remark that he who wrote an autobiography always told untruths, not unconvincingly, but deliberately.

He was born in the Cherente and went into the jewellery business. Active in a group of young Catholic intellectuals, it was amongst them that he met the publicity agent Henri Siffert, who had founded Seuil in 1935, but was by then at a loss what to do with his creation. Thus it

was, aged 23, that Flamand found himself running the literary production of the publishing house, whilst Jean Bardet (aged 27) became the administration and commercial director.

Before and during the second world war, Flamand had been active in youth organisations, including the scouting movement led by Guy Larigaudie, who was killed in France's 1940 campaign. In 1941 he became a member of the Vichy-approved cultural group, *Jeune France*. Some of its members soon aroused Vichy disapproval because of their Christian

democrat and anti-fascist principles, particularly the leading Catholic Emmanuel Mounier, a friend of Flamand. They were both expelled from *Jeune France*, Mounier being arrested by the Vichy police in 1942. After his release, Flamand and others made secret plans for the revue *Esprit* — which had been banned by Vichy — to re-appear as a publication of the Editions du Seuil.

WITH his publishing house, *Esprit*, both located in the Rue Jacob, Flamand became a leading figure in French intellectual life. He showed his independence by publishing *Teilhard de Chardin's* works which were very profitable — at a time when his vision of a technological ideology was causing disquiet in the Vatican. There were few controversies in which Flamand was not involved via his publications, and he always refused to try and fix any agreement on his authors.

Thus, in the debate over Soviet concentration camps, the Seuil published Margarete Buber-Neumann's *Voyage to Siberia*, which was bitterly attacked in *Esprit* because it drew a parallel between the Nazis and the Soviet systems of justice.

Many shades of Catholicism were represented by the directors of the Editions du Seuil and *Esprit*. It was said,

with some truth, that the Rue Jacob institutions were the home of left-wing Catholicism. But Flamand saw to it that protestants and Jews occupied positions in his organisation. One atheist on his staff, Francis Jeanson, created a scandal in 1956 with a book supporting Algerian nationalists and attacking the French colonial war.

In 1960 Flamand supervised the appearance of a new review, *Tel Quel*, edited by Philippe Sollers, which campaigned against intellectual trends such as structuralism and Maoism. Other series of publications followed, devoted to history, psychology and philosophy.

When Flamand retired in 1979, the Editions du Seuil was one of Europe's leading publishing houses. With 30 per cent of the capital being owned by its staff, it was an example in other ways. Naturally, Flamand had his failings as a publisher — he had, for instance, rejected one of Samuel Beckett's early manuscripts. But there are those who would say that this was not a disaster.

Paul Flamand was predeceased by his wife. He leaves five children, including two sons who work at the Editions du Seuil.

Douglas Johnson

Paul Flamand, publisher, born January 25, 1909; died August 4, 1998



Paul Flamand... with his publishing partner at Editions du Seuil, Jean Bardet (right)

Claudia Flanders

Access for all to the open road

IN 1987 Claudia Flanders, who has died of brain cancer aged 65, founded Tripscope, the national travel advisory centre for people with disabilities, which provides free phone advice to callers needing to overcome handicaps to make a trip.

In the 1970s she had created the post of adviser on disability to the National Bus Company. For 15 years she served on the statutory Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee, which directs ministers' attention to mobility questions.

A starting point for Claudia's expertise came on New Year's Eve 1969, when she married the writer and entertainer Michael Flanders, who

had used a wheelchair after contracting poliomyelitis. For much of the 1960s she toured with her husband and Donald Swann in their shows, *At the Drop of a Hat* and *At the Drop of Another Hat*. She was wife and mother, but also technical manager and creative consultant.

MICHAEL Flanders died in 1973. Drawing on what she had learned during her touring years, Claudia became an expert in making transport accessible to disabled people.

The daughter of writer Hope Hale Davis and journalist Claud Cockburn, she was raised in New England, by her mother and stepfather,

Robert Gorham Davis. After graduating from Smith College, in the 1950s she worked at the United Nations and then at Radio Free Europe.

Claudia was famous for her insight, compassion, generosity — and exuberant parties. She was an accomplished pianist and a versatile linguist. In 1981 she was awarded an OBE for her services to disabled people. She is survived by two daughters — Laura and Stephanie — six brothers and sisters, and her mother.

Sir Peter Baldwin

Claudia Flanders, campaigner, born February 11, 1933; died June 25, 1998



Flanders... exuberant

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: My staunch companion in a lifetime of mountain days has, with shattering suddenness, passed on. Before me is a photograph of him, aged five and a half, standing by the summit cairn on Conistone Old Man. The picture was taken by his grandfather, my father, who Robin had taken up the mountain. A very sound and knowledgeable mountaineer, he read maps as easily as other people read books or newspapers, with him you never got lost. When he was only 18, he and I traversed the Cullin Ridge in Skye together — he was probably the youngest person to have done the ridge at that time. Earlier this

year, Robin went on his first expedition to the Himalayas, to climb a peak of nearly 22,000 feet. Out of a party of 10 only four reached the summit. Robin, the oldest member, taking charge when the professional leader had to drop out with altitude sickness. He and I had enjoyed hundreds of wonderful days in the Lake District, the Scottish hills, the Alps, the Yorkshire fells, the Northern Pennines. And, during the last three years, he had taken his wife to all the Lake District two-thousand summits and, eventually, to every summit in England. They were building a house in Kendal where they were planning to retire to devote the rest of their lives to the hills. Sadly, this is not to be.

A HARRY GRIFFIN

Birthdays

Jim Courier, tennis player, 28; Robin Cousins, ice skater, 41; Robert De Niro, actor, 55; Ted Hughes, OM, poet laureate, 68; John Humphrys, broadcaster, 55; Elizabeth Llewelyn-Smith, principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 64; Ian McAllister, chairman and managing director, Ford Motor Company, 55; Seamus Mallon, SDLP MP, deputy first minister, Northern Ireland, 62; Prof Sir Leslie Martin, architect, 90; George Melly, jazz singer, 72;

Sir Vidiaadhar (V S) Naipaul, novelist, 66; Maureen O'Hara, actress, 77; Nelson Piquet, racing driver, 45; Rebecca Pomeroy, Emeritus Professor of the Romance Languages, University of Oxford, 69; Sue Robertson, chief executive, London Arts Board, 48; Barry Sheerman, Labour MP, 58; Richard Stott, former editor, *Daily Mirror*, 55; Kirk Stevens, snooker player, 40; Guillermo Vilas, tennis player, 46; Prof Michael Wise, geographer, 60; Sir Tony Wrigley, master, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 67.

2FOR1 TICKETS FOR THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Take this copy of the Guardian to the relevant box office and get two tickets for the price of one to the following shows (subject to availability):

- The Machine Gunners** by Robert Westall
The award winning novel became a million copy best seller and classic television series. Now it's a musical, performed by South Tyneside College of Performing Arts with music by John Miles. The Observer Assembly, 2.10pm - 10 pm
- Raybe Kan - Dazed and Confused**
New Zealand's top-selling comedian. Film actor, TV pitchman for a bank, and author, Raybe Kan's intelligent vulnerability is a hit at Melbourne's Calder's Glided Ballroom, 7.30pm - 5 pm
- Car Maintenance, Explosives and Loves**
Donna Jackson's rock-fueled explosive night of theatre with a car-bomb, face-wielding woman from Australia! Pleasance Two, 11.00pm - 5 pm

For full details of shows at the Observer Assembly, the Calder's Glided Ballroom and the Pleasance phone 0897 501387 for a free GASP brochure (call cost £2 per minute).

The Guardian **The Observer**

Comment Omagh massacre

They'll tell you it's about freedom.



Who are the Real IRA? Where do they fit into the republican movement and, crucially, how can they be stopped?

The killers should be hammered. Perhaps Gerry Adams could help

Kevin Toolis



O MAGH is a nationalist town. The vast majority of the victims killed as they simply walked the streets of their own home town. Killed almost certainly by a handful of dissident republicans who also regard Omagh as their home town. Ironically, a leading spokesperson for those dissident republicans is a former Sinn Féin councillor, Francis Mackey, who represents part of the Omagh district.

The killers will do everything in their power to evade their responsibility and blame the RUC for not following the bombers' instructions. But phoning in bomb warnings is not like ordering a taxi. Rightly no one will believe them. It was republicans and republicans alone who brought death and carnage to Omagh on Saturday.

The republicans behind the bombing are almost certainly linked to the Real IRA, a group identified with the former IRA quartermaster from Dundalk and his political organisation's mouthpiece, the 32 County Sovereignty Committee. The Real IRA's heartland is the hardline border areas, South Armagh and County Louth in the republic. Their organisation is numbered in tens not hundreds but it would be a mistake to

underestimate their passive support.

Their immediate origins lie in a minor split in the Provisionals in Donegal in October last year when the quartermaster and a handful of followers split away, unhappy with the decision of Adams and McGuinness to choose the constitutional road — taking seats in the Stormont Assembly.

But their antecedents are far older than that and reach back to the fountainhead of the IRA itself, Pádraig Pearse and the Easter Rising of 1916. It was Pearse with his doctrine of uprising and dreams of self-sacrifice who injected a virulent strain of violent futility into Irish politics. It did not matter that the rising was incoherent, disorganised and doomed to failure from its very inception. What was important was the act of resistance itself and the notion that blood and death, even your own, would somehow carry the mission forward. Dying for Ireland violently became a Holy Grail. Killing became a duty. The IRA was just a necessary sacrifice of the war. Ideologically it is not far from Dublin 1916 to Omagh 1998.

In the end Pearse calculated rightly: that the stupidity and retribution of the British in lining him up in front of a firing squad would carry him

through. His blood sacrifice was an inspiration to countless other Irish gunmen to take up arms and shoot policemen for Ireland's sake. We must be careful at this moment of outrage not to make the same mistake.

It was Pearse's philosophy of the gun that for 30 years underpinned the Provisionals' violent campaign of terrorism against the Northern Irish state. The Provisionals under the leadership of Adams and McGuinness have bitten on the bullet of political pragmatism and laid aside

Pearse, with his doomed uprising, injected a virulent new strain of violent futility into Irish politics

guns for political argument. But they do not own the political copyright on violent Irish republicanism. Pearse's mission has been taken up by the Real IRA.

For the Real IRA it does not matter that the IRA has been in existence since 1916. It does not matter that the Real IRA is tiny and the prospects

hopeless. And it does not matter that murdering people is wrong and pointless. Like Pearse, "resistance" is something up border towns is somehow enough.

In May of this year, the Real IRA had the funeral of their first martyr, Ronan McLoughlin — shot dead by the Irish police during an abortive bank robbery to raise money for arms.

He was buried with full republican honours in Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin from where Pearse first called for more blood to be shed. The Guardian later published a long account of his life and the influences on it.

I spoke at length to his relatives and to Bernadette Sands McKevitt, a key spokesperson for the 32 County Sovereignty Committee. Spoke is probably the wrong word. I listened as Sands-McKevitt went through a familiar self-justifying series of arguments about the future of Ireland, none of which were connected with the political reality of Ireland.

When I asked what Ronan McLoughlin died for I was simply told "Ireland". When I asked what was the point of more bombs, Sands-McKevitt shrugged her shoulders and said there would always be bombs as long as there was "English rule". When asked about the democratic will of the Irish people as outlined

in referendums on the Good Friday Agreement, she shrugged again and talked about the "Men of 1916" and the fact that they did not have a mandate.

In that sense, the Real IRA is impervious to political logic. As a philosophy it cannot be appealed, bargained with, or tamed. It is a fanatic passion that is oblivious to the suffering it inflicts on its own and, as in Omagh, on the innocent, the uninvolved, the casual Saturday shopper.

But we are not powerless in the face of this group. Now is the moment for Dublin, not London, to move hard against them. The SAS should stay at home in their Herford beds.

The Real IRA and its followers can be isolated, suppressed, jailed and harassed. But it is a task for their fellow Irishmen. Perhaps even Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness can help out.

The Real IRA can, in the words of the IRA informer Sean O'Callaghan, be put out into the street and given a good political kicking in front of the nationalist community of Ireland by their fellow Irishmen. They have shed blood on Omagh in a terrible fashion and massively damaged their own cause. Now is the time to extract a full measure of political revenge.

Kevin Toolis is the author of *Rebel Hearts*, a study of the IRA

Fatal blow or a last throw?

Lord Holme

AS THE horror of Saturday's bombing sinks in, the question is whether the mass slaughter in Omagh represents a mortal blow to the already precarious peace process, as its perpetrators undoubtedly hope, or whether it will ultimately be seen as an unsuccessful last throw by those whom history has left behind.

The answer to that question lies in the reactions of the key players over the next week or so.

At the visceral level of an eye for an eye, will the able and responsible leadership of the former Loyalist paramilitaries be able to restrain their more enraged colleagues from responding in kind with the traditional tit-for-tat terror which has disfigured life in Northern Ireland for so long? It is possible, but it will not be easy for the likes of David Ervine, Gary McKinnel and David Adams to do so.

A lot will depend on what happens on the wider shores of unionism. There the stormy petrels of the DUP are already aloft beating their wings. Dr Paisley and his colleagues have been asking for a return match on the referendum.

They have never been reluctant to raise the temperature in Northern Ireland to boiling point — even if they are adept at then standing back and wringing their hands at the spilled milk, and spilled blood — which inevitably ensues. But now they are playing for even bigger stakes. They believe it is within their grasp to split moderate unionism, in the shape of the Ulster Unionist Party, and in the process destroy the leadership of David Trimble.

Much now rests on the shoulders of Northern Ireland's first Minister-elect. He dealt well with Drumcree, given that the Orangemen were camped in his own constituency; he has established a fine working partnership with Seamus Mallon, his nationalist deputy.

He has been ready to use the moral authority of his referendum mandate to the point where a less sectarian future for Northern Ireland under his leadership seemed possible.

Yet David Trimble is desperately vulnerable to those who would play the Orange card on prisoner release and other issues. Dr Paisley and his ilk, members of his own party such as the ambitious Jeffrey Donaldson, and even some Conservative spokesmen who have seemed ready to score points than to imple-

ment the Belfast Agreement in full and speedily.

Paradoxically Mr Trimble now needs help badly from the nationalist side if he is not to seem naïve to understandably fearful and suspicious unionists. Will the Talbot, Bertie Aherne, track down and arrest every member of the so-called Real IRA he can lay his hands on? He has the authority of the Irish referendum to do so.

Even more crucially, what will the leadership of Sinn Féin and the provisional IRA now do? They have it in their direct power to reassure the nervous in Northern Ireland and build on the Good Friday settlement, or they could revert to the atavism that preserves a double standard and end up excusing or even romanticising "green" guns and bombs.

It is true that Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness have managed for the first time to condemn a double standard from republicans rather than merely regretting it. That must have taken courage, given Irish history, but it is still not nearly enough.

They should now be prepared to exercise the same discipline behind the Sinn Féin and IRA's new strategy of political progress by peaceful means as they did previously behind the tactics of armed struggle.

They have been ready enough to order knee-capping for minor deviations from their iron rule in local communities. Will they now work with the security services, Irish not British, to ensure that the murderers of the "Real IRA" are arrested? They will certainly know better than anyone else how to find them.

EVEN more fundamentally they merely be content to relish the possible split in unionism and the fatal weakening of David Trimble or will they act now to reassure all those decent people, who yearn for peace but fear the worst, by acting definitively to end for good the possibility of any resort to arms, and do this between now and the beginning of September.

A gesture is required from Gerry Adams in the next two weeks.

If he is ready to play a full part in the government of a peaceful Northern Ireland he will make that gesture.

If not, gloom and suspicion will spread and a destructive escalation in violence could grow.

Tony Blair has not put a foot wrong in Northern Ireland so far, but over the next days he and Mo Mowlam should be bending all their efforts, with the help of the Talbot, to persuade legitimate republicanism to move forward from being passive bit players in the initiatives of others to becoming the writers of a new and better chapter of Irish history.

Lord Holme is the Liberal Democrat parliamentary spokesman on Northern Ireland.

The real deal

Eamonn McCann



MAINSTREAM commentators in Ireland already had a settled view of the Real IRA before Saturday's bomb in Omagh blasted the organisation onto the front pages. The conventional wisdom was well-expressed by the respected nationalist newspaper the Derry Journal, commenting on the car-bombing of Banbridge on August 1 — an attack which followed the exact pattern of Omagh, except that the warning telephone call had accurately pinpointed the location of the device, ensuring that the area was cleared, despite property

damage running to millions.

The Real IRA, declared the Journal (August 4) "represent nobody". They are "renegades, yesterday's men... with no agenda except to keep violence an ingredient in our society... No policies, no political philosophy, no contribution to make to the ideals of Republicanism as expressed in the 1916 Proclamation".

This tendency to dismiss the Real IRA as kill-crazy thugs with no politics misses the point. Or at least it misses their point.

It's all in the name. The Real IRA sees itself as representing the authentic republican tradition. The main purpose of the military campaign, of which the Omagh bombing was part, has been to assert its title to the mantle cast off as they see it, by Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams when they signed up to an agreement which leaves part of Ireland under British rule.

Contrary to the view expressed by David Trimble and others, McGuinness and Adams, far from trying "to have their cake and eat it" — entering the Assembly while con-

niving at a continuing armed struggle — were the political targets of the Omagh bomb.

This consideration makes it even more difficult for the leadership of mainstream republicanism to accede to demands to declare that "the war is over", or for the Provisional IRA to begin decommissioning weaponry or to co-operate in a security crackdown on their former associates.

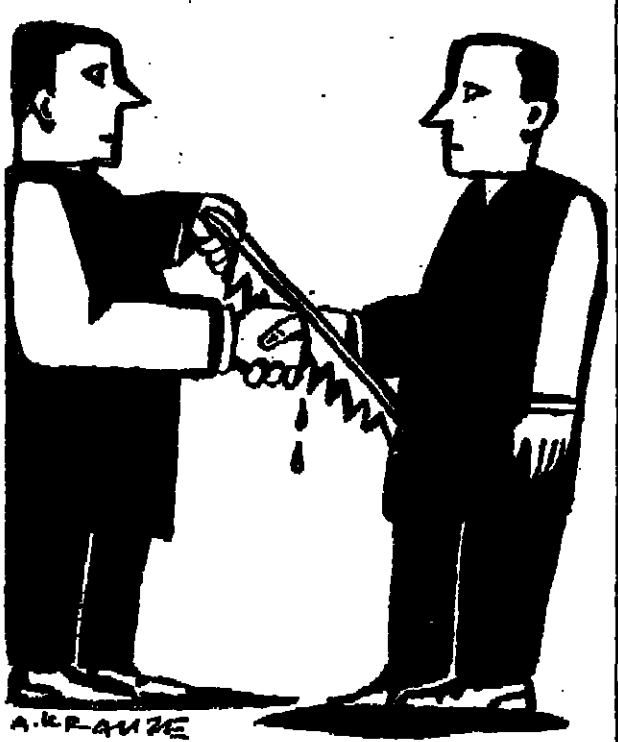
Any move of that sort would, in the perspective of "pure" republicanism, amount to renunciation not just of the movement's core value but of its very raison d'être. It would signal withdrawal from the exact ideological territory being contested by the Real IRA, and lend plausibility to dissident groups' claims on the tradition going back to 1916. The Republic's Foreign Affairs Minister, Liz O'Donnell, one of the few Southern politicians with a grasp of ideology, signalled her alertness to this in her comment on the Omagh bombing: "We did a deal with republicanism when we lost a deal with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. (The Real IRA) does not represent

republicanism." However, an endorsement of the credentials of McGuinness and Adams from that quarter is unlikely to impress those behind the Omagh outrage.

They will be more attuned to history — to, for example, the Derry Journal now saying about the Real IRA what it said in 1916, 30 years ago, when it occupied the GPO and gave birth to the modern republican tradition, were the April 1916 editorial writer insisted, "not really Sinn Féin as a compact force", but "desperate characters... without sufficient education to gauge correctly the dire consequences of their criminal, senseless, suicidal, deplorable endeavour".

The 1916 proclamation hadn't been put to the people, much less massively endorsed in a referendum. The rising, and the subsequent war of independence, were undertaken in the name of the people, certainly, but not at the democratic behest of the people.

The IRA has seen itself ever since as defending the existing republic thus proclaimed. In this perspective, to sign up to a settlement which might be



regarded by many as a major step towards the ultimate objective, but falling short of its actual attainment, appears not as an advance but as retreat.

This is the context in which every compromise by a republican leadership since 1921 has led to charges of treason, and, usually, to bloody feud. It may seem mad-cap and semi-mystical. But it is this view of themselves and of their project which has provided the republican movement with its sense of legitimacy through the years and sustained it through periods when there was little to give it success.

However, while the Real IRA leadership may have a more plausible claim to historical authenticity, they may have misread actually-existing republicanism. The movement led by McGuinness and Adams differs in character and composition from the classical republicanism espoused by their current rivals for the mantle of history, Sinn Féin and the IRA didn't emerge as a major force in the North in the 1970s through a mass conversion to the republican ideal in the ghettos of Belfast and Derry, but from

the civil rights movement.

Cryptically put, when young, urgent people who had come onto the streets were met with water cannon, CS gas, intervention and finally, as on Bloody Sunday, death at the hands of the security forces, many drew the conclusion that the best way to hit back was through armed struggle. Republicanism became the vehicle through which raging anger and the impulse to revolt came to be expressed. Hallowed ideology was a minor factor in this development compared with hard experience. The pragmatism of the Sinn Féin and IRA leaderships which appalled those who finally broke away is rooted in this factor.

This half-hidden feature of the political and ideological landscape may — along with the visceral revulsion at the cruelty of Saturday's bomb — ensure that, this time, entitlement to be regarded as the "real" IRA won't be decisive in determining the outcome of the latest republican split.

Eamonn McCann, a political commentator, is a former civil rights activist.

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Murder in Omagh

They died for May's vote

SATURDAY'S massacre in the market is different from what has gone before in Northern Ireland's bloody recent history. For the deaths and injuries and the site of the attack there are precedents in kind if not number. Ulster has before now lived the wantonness of the destruction in Omagh, the sheer accidents of place and space that put one family member nearer the blast than another. Whether people were herded together to be slaughtered as a result of a terrorist plot or because of murderous incompetence on the part of the bombers may be discovered, but again, sadly, 28 years do offer prior examples.

What surely is new is the object of terror. Saturday's bomb was not directed against a "British state", or any other cant phrase of decadent Irish irredentism. The victims were citizens of something new. What was created as a result of May's vote is an embryonic, inclusive political entity. Unionist-led, its deputy leader is a Catholic from

the province's leading nationalist party. Crucially, to it also belongs Sinn Féin, the party of the republican insurgency. Thus Gerry Adams's response to this outrage was significant. There's always with Mr Adams a suspicion of equivocation in the most unequivocal of his declarations; none the less his words have to count as evidence that he too now considers himself to reside inside the organism born on Good Friday this year. The die-hard republicans who carried out the attack — if the Chief Constable's suspicions are borne out — may inadvertently have further reinforced the identification of Messrs Adams and McGuinness with the new set-up. Will the Loyalist paramilitaries see that the structure in which they too have invested might as a result be strengthened and legitimated? David Trimble, the province's first minister, was criticised for his hesitation at Drumcree. Yet further tests of his leadership lie ahead as he seeks to persuade Unionism that Omagh must be an opportunity to build and strengthen the fledgling assembly and executive.

To all those saying so bitterly and so understandably during the past 36 hours "some peace", Mr Trimble and his Unionist colleagues have with conviction to muster the reply: it is because the new arrangements promise so much that they are sub-

ject to such desperate assault. And this outrage will not be the last.

"We cannot let the men of violence win," said Seamus Mallon — in the spring after the assassination of a Protestant and a Catholic by Loyalists in Poyntzpass. Reaction to those deaths may have contributed to the spirit of Easter. Similarly the burning to death of three children in Portadown a month ago may, in discrediting the extremes of Orangism, have served the cause of peace. Omagh is different because all those willing to talk, move forward, to behave politically, are now inside the camp. Those outside are pariahs, the also-rans of modern Irish history. They have no analysis, no theory, no intelligible ends. The only response is to form ranks against them.

But first the security lessons from Omagh must be absorbed. In peace the burden of policing may have to become more not less onerous. The intelligence challenge facing the RUC and the security forces in Ulster is greater, the smaller in size the terrorist formations become. The Republic's political class and police, too, must ask searching questions about safe havens for killers south of the border. "Serial killers", President Mary McAleese called them; if so, the Gardaí must be permanently mobilised, in Dundalk and elsewhere to root out those nests where, it appears, the renegades find suc-

cour. After Omagh, can Gerry Adams and Sinn Féin continue to play the decommis-sioning game long? They now share responsibility to hold up the flimsy tent that is democratic, consensual Northern Irish politics. During the next few days it has to survive a hurricane.

Testimony time

You're safe to tell the truth, Bill

IT'S SEX, lies and videolinks on the Poto-mac today. But nothing that Bill Clinton says to the grand jury — vehement denial, partial admission, a full monty confession — will alter the paradoxical political fact of Zippertage. It does not matter much. What happens to the American stock market and economy (with profound consequences for the rest of us) does not turn on the president's veracity. There will, moreover, be no impeachment, whatever prosecutor Starr eventually reports to Congress. Damage has been done, that's for sure. In his zeal to injure this president, Kenneth Starr has polluted the American political and judicial systems; but he has also reduced his own effectiveness as inquisitor-in-chief. The Republicans are worried and, at this stage in the presidential cycle, weak. At worst

they will extemporise. The president, truth-ful or not today, will see his term out.

There is no point now in debating whether the Paula Jones suit should have been prosecuted (the Supreme Court erred); likewise the degradation of the office of special prosecutor (not for the first time, partisan spirit has got the better of concern for due and proportionate process). Once grand juries are sitting the truth matters, even about trivialities. The integrity of judicial process is a key part of the American way even when, as here, it has become a kind of feeder of cues for a prurient show masterminded by the media in which — Hillary was right — right-wing enemies of liberalism are significant players.

The president has it in his power to end the freak show. Middle as well as sophisticated America wants it to stop: for the president to make some admission, perhaps even acknowledging that he lied in the Jones depositions. But that wish is child of a belief that he and Monica did have sex. Only she and he (and perhaps ultimately FBI laboratory technicians) know. In a more adult, less partisan American their knowl-edge would have remained private. Now it has to come out. In his testimony Bill Clinton can mark the beginning of the end of his far from unsuccessful presidency by conscripting the truth.

Letters to the Editor

Universities and clones

I'm sorry that Diana Warwick (Letters, August 14) perceives universities as being training camps for jobs, and not academic communities where art and science are explored and exalted. Yet Ms Warwick is right, of course: in the 20th century, universities still are, in fact, no more than places where the increase of individuals' money-earning qualities is facilitated. She is "right" in the same way that Margaret Thatcher was "right" when she claimed there was no such thing as society.

Peter Ostrowicki, Wickford, Essex.

I was heart-warming to see the five-column obituary of Benny Waters (August 14), considering that you probably did not print five words about him when he was alive and playing his superb music. During the past two weeks some of the greatest living creative musicians (jazz players one and all) have been playing in repertory at Pizza Express, Soho. The Guardian has not printed one word, let alone five, about any of their perfor-mances. But I suppose they too will get extensive obituaries when the time comes.

Stanley Clineham, London.

It is claimed that Dolly the cloned sheep will be kid-napped (A glorious summer for discontent, August 15). Yes, but how will they know they got the right one?

Ian Anderson, London.

I WAS delighted by your let-ters on pornography (August 15), without exception they showed more good sense than either of your columnists. I was delighted by Jane Easton's careful navigation between Charlotte Raven's Old Mids-andry and Kate Taylor's New Lass-ism, and why did Claire Rayner use the pseud-onym "Peter Tatchell" when handing out her usual dollop of sound advice?

John Rogers, Bristol.

GOING by reports from Russia of financial difficulties, a bloodthirsty mafia and other problems, it won't be long before the whole place goes communist.

Mike Mitchell, Manchester.

I HAVE searched for any ref-erence to your Birthdays column (August 13) describing Bernard Manning as a "co-mediant". I presume you will be printing the necessary cor-rection soon?

Ray Bolden, Hastings, S Sussex.

Name the men of terror

THE dreadful carnage at Omagh was obviously in-tended to derail any future dialogue between the leadership of the commu-nities in Northern Ireland.

Coming as it does so close after the overwhelming vote of the people of Ireland, North and South, to accept com-pro-mise and an agreed solution to the troubles, John Hume's de-scription of these bombers as fascists is wholly accurate.

This act was perpetrated by blinkered ideologues with no humanity, no shred of respect for the democratic process.

As the decent people of Omagh bury their dead, care for the maimed and injured, and try to piece together their jobs and businesses, their neighbours must ask them-selves some serious questions.

In particular, they must consider whether the long tra-dition of not informing on the remaining self-appointed "pro-ectors" of their commu-nities is still morally defen-sible in the light of the recent election results.

It is only when ordinary people are able to support democracy by isolating the rump element of fascists and psychopaths amongst them that this murder and mayhem will stop. Sing, for the love of God, before it is too late to stop the murder of another innocent.

Tina White, Birmingham.

HISTORY repeats itself once again in Ireland, so let it do so completely. When the Treaty settlement was made, the Incoming Free State

government set about ending the violence. The names of the Provisional's dissenters, who set off the Omagh bomb, must be available, to nationalists/republicans/Sinn Féin, who participated in the Good Friday agreement.

There is now an opportu-nity, for those committed to its implementation, to show the same courage, statesmanship and dedication, in assisting in the search for, and the bring-ing to book, of the perpe-trators of this latest outrage, as was done in the 1920s.

Extermination to violence of this kind, may be difficult to break, but break it must, and those who have committed themselves to making the agreement work, endorsed overwhelmingly by the will for the people, must prevail, if the process towards peace is to be assured.

Samuel Boyd, Cwmbran, Gwent.

WHOEVER planted the bomb that killed so many innocents knew that with so little happening on the home front during the holiday sea-son the outrage, whatever the size of the casualty list, would be guaranteed to receive blank-et coverage in the papers.

Yet surely it matters less who perpetrated this iniqui-ty, and more that it has been condemned by all those, in-cluding Sinn Féin, who have an electoral mandate to pur-sue the current peace initia-tive through democratic means.

Even if this small minority of disaffected republicans, if such are responsible — are caught and imprisoned it is unlikely that the horror will

not be repeated in the future.

Three decades of terror and counter-terror cannot have failed to leave, for some, an indelible imprint of sectarian hatred and intolerance that is willing to indiscriminately sacrifice even the lives of young children from their own side in order to commu-nicate their hopeless message to anyone still willing to listen.

No words of condemnation or threats of retribution will bring about a strategic rethink by individuals for whom the explosive and the gun are still regarded as the only effective means of realis-ing their political ambitions: Bill Jackson, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

BEFORE Omagh I could see the logic of Gerry Adams's argument that the decriminal-ising of IRA arms should take place in the context of total demilitarisation. That argu-ment holds no water now that we see splinter groups with access to the IRA armoury using it with devastating effect.

The IRA must now sur-render its arms for Sinn Féin's commitment to the peace pro-cess to retain credibility. The nationalist movement has shot itself in the foot, but that was probably the intention — to politically demoralise Mar-tin McGuinness and Adams.

Therefore it is not just the loyalists who need to exercise restraint — nationalists must reaffirm their commitment to the peace process. You are not committed if you can't control who has access to the Semtex in your backyard. Anthony Gunnerson, London.



Premature death knell for 'Eskimo'

WELCOME the position taken by the Oxford Dictionary (Phwoah — Oxford dictionary says to boldly split an infinitive will keep you on message, August 12) on the "split infinitive". It has been based on a fundamental, but rarely addressed, ambiguity regarding the identity of the infinitive — whether the infinitive consists of two parts, "to" plus a verb participle, or whether the "to" form of the verb is itself a modified form of the true infinitive.

If it were accepted that this single part stem were in fact the true infinitive, and hence the notion of a split infinitive illogical, we would bring back a fisher not only many basic grammatical struc-tures, but also far more ad-vanced linguistic strategies, where the careful placing of an

adverb can subtly, or indeed radically, change the meaning or nuance of a sentence. Sarah Muirhead, Nottingham.

CONGRATULATIONS to the OUP for attempting to "avoid a litany of politically incorrect words", but I'm afraid I have some bad news. A friend in the north of Can-ada attempted to address some of the locals as "Inuit". "We," one told him indignantly, "are Eskimos. All the Inuit are in Ottawa." Similarly, a government at-tempt to refer to fishermen as fishers caused a furore on the east coast — it was pointed out that a fisher is a bird. When it comes to being politically cor-rect, consult the people. Colin Lay, Edmonton, Alberta.

Spot the Gaul

THE government survey vessel examining the wreck of the Hull trawler Gaul didn't really have to "find" the wreck off the Norwegian coast (Gaul search team to look for bodies, August 10). The Man-sal 18 went straight to the spot given by Anglia TV to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch. We discovered the wreck a year ago while making the documentary Secrets Of The Gaul for Channel 4's Dispatches series. The GPS position we subsequently gave the MAB was so accurate their search area was less than 2 metres by 1 metre.

We also gave them our underwater footage of the Gaul. Those pictures were shown at a special screening for relatives before appearing on Channel 4 and TV and BBC news bulletins. Therefore I was surprised to hear BBC Radio 4 News say relatives on board the survey vessel were "seeing pictures of the wreck... for the first time". Bob Ledwith, Executive producer, Anglia Television, London.

Rural counsel

THEY seem to have a strange idea of dairy farm-ing down in Sussex (Letters, August 14). Many dairy cattle are not taken out of herds daily because of TB, the in-cidence is very low and where it does occur is often associated with the presence of badgers. All cattle are subject to periodic tests for TB. The stur-ry cattle produce is an organic manure. Dairy cattle are not routinely fed antibiotics and the practice of keeping them indoors is for protection in in-clement weather — the main part of the grass which is the main part of their diet tends not to grow very well in winter.

If your correspondents ever venture as far north as York-shire they are welcome to visit my dairy farm and see that reality happens. If not, I can give them the names and addresses of dairy farmers in the South-east who will be willing to educate them. Bill Bradley, Skipton, N Yorks.

OF course Mr Voute, execu-tive director of the Countryside Alliance, is against a "right to roam" and for "vol-untary partnerships" on ac-cess (Letters, August 15) be-cause he knows that such partnerships are only volun-tary for landowners. Ramblers will get nothing except the derisory access the land-owners are prepared to con-cede. Mr Voute wants his members to continue to have a veto on where people may walk on uncultivated land.

We know that only a new law, as set out in the govern-ment consultation paper, giv-ing freedom to roam responsi-bly away from paths on mountain, moors and com-mons, will give people the ac-cess they want and need. Kate Ashbrook, Ramblers' Association, London.

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Oklahoma! is the price to keep National from nob and snobs

MICHAEL Billington, musing by an accusation of being a pompous idiot, has de-scribed a wholly unrepresenta-tive moment in the life of the National Theatre as if it is the norm (Oh no. Not Oklahoma! August 12). He has also com-pared a year's work by our friends at the Almeida to a month of the output here. Clearly he is not concerned to be even-handed because he has an agenda.

The latest show he wants his readers not to see is Okla-homa! directed by Michael Billington. I wanted to, and be-cause it is one of the signposts of the last hundred years of theatre; and because a truly National Theatre must embrace tastes and disci-plines of every kind.

No harm done... until we get to his declaration that the National should have run up a \$2 million deficit, doing a re-pertoire we cannot afford, to prove to the Government that we are seriously under-funded. This is exactly the dis-credited approach that has proved to be a recipe for disaster in the past.

We all struggle to survive in the changed climate of frozen funding but unlike Billington, my colleagues and I have to live in the real world of bud-gets and balance sheets. By ut-tering such irresponsible alibi-gans, he makes our difficult job very much harder. The plight of theatres in London in the summer months is a socio-

logical and statistical fact which we at the National have responded to creatively. We have given the public what we believe in and our houses are full. To suggest we should be losing £2 million instead is in-deed both pompous and idiotic.

Trevor Nunn, Director, Royal National Theatre, London.

WHAT'S wrong with pack-ing 'em in, and making a few bob? That way, Trevor Nunn can then afford to revive some of those obscure, turgid eastern European tragedies (so beloved of Michael Billington).

I read Mr B's depressing piece after having enjoyed an exhilarating, vibrant perfor-mance of Oklahoma! Billington misses the point. A national theatre should cater for all tastes. And you've only got to look across the river at the Royal Opera House to see what can happen when the nob and snobs take over. Barry Jackett, Lymington, Hants

It seems that Great Train rob-ber Bruce Reynolds has not given up his thieving ways (Joe Orton told it like it was, August 15). While your theatre critic Michael Billington is away in Edinburgh, Bruce has nicked his job. Give it to him — he's good. Robin Corbett MP, House of Commons.

Tarnish on the EU's 'gold-plated' democracy

ROBIN Cook's critique of the European Union (Full steam ahead, August 14) shows that one ministerial mind is still malleable.

His implicit endorsement of Paddy Ashdown's call for a European constitution, to give effect to the full hierarchy of subsidiarity at local, regional, national and EU levels, is timely. His hinted solutions are, however, bizarre. The worst of the bureaucracy that is alleged to result from EU over-centralisation is designed by White-hall. UK farmers call this ex-tensive elaboration "gold plating". It is the Westminster Parliament which has the duty to scrutinise this pro-cess, at every stage. We cannot pass this buck to Strasbourg.

That is why our modernisa-tion select committee has pro-duced detailed proposals to strengthen MPs' powers to monitor progress through EU institutions, and to amend the national additions inserted by our own government. If our Parliament was permitted to do its job properly, half Mr Cook's complaints would dissolve.

Of course, such an approach would mean that ministers would have to take MPs into their confidence before crucial decision-making in the EU council. If he really believes that "one possible role for national parliaments would be to provide scrutiny on the principle of subsidiarity", why is he, and the Cabinet, hesitating to

back the reforms our commit-tee suggests? Paul Tyler MP, Liberal Democrat Chief Whip, House of Commons.

ROBIN Cook argues a Rus-tonian state can no longer stand alone, to justify Brit-ain's EU membership. The nation states that between them produce nearly half of the world's GDP (the US and Japan) do stand alone, as do the five nation states with the highest GDP per head (Luxem-burg, Switzerland, Japan, Bermuda and Norway). Maritz van den Berg, London.

NATURALLY MEPs will ob-ject to proposals (Cook curb on Europe, August 13) to

create an EU second chamber made up of MPs from national parliaments, citing expense and duplication. The obvious answer is to remove the pres-ent first chamber, which is the European Parliament, and just have this second one.

It costs £1,600 per day to keep an MEP in Strasbourg. What in heaven's name do they do? An MEP is expensive enough, at £2,400 a day, but at least they open the occasional fete and can be seen shouting and booing in Parliament. Pos-sibly best of all might be to transfer all the members to the Lords to Strasbourg — £280 a day — who can sneeze over as well as they can here. Michael Knowles, Congleton, Cheshire.

WHILST the European Par-liament has not been around as long as the West-

minster Parliament, perhaps a more accountable and cost effective system would be for MEPs to also sit in and report to their own parliaments. Valerie Vaz, Leicester.

THE European Parliament does have powers to scruti-nise and veto legislation eman-ating from the Council, though it cannot initiate legisla-tion. But the UK Parliament has no power to veto the actions of the UK government in the Council. Accordingly, British policy on areas within the EU remit is not subject to any democratic control. Westminster could fill this gap, but so could British MEPs — creating a healthy dialogue between domestic and Euro-pean politicians. Richard Wilkins, London.

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FinanceGuardian

South African Notebook

Stop-go economy that dares not halt

only accelerating pay rises in manufacturing but stalling productivity growth. Provisional figures for the second quarter of this year showed productivity rising 3.4 per cent during the previous 12 months, against a recent peak of 4.7 per cent in the second quarter of 1996. Expected productivity growth in the next 12 months is 3.8 per cent, against 5.3 per cent in the second quarter of 1996 and 4.9 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

Rising unit labour costs could further price British exports – already suffering from the strength of sterling – out of foreign markets, costing jobs at home.

Alex Duval Smith

Chris Stals, the reserve bank governor, an internationally respected apartheid-era banker who is due to retire in August next year. Tito Mboweni, a former labour minister and African National Congress politician, is to replace him.

Dr Jammie said: "The rand had held its own at the beginning of the year against the strong pound and dollar, despite the overthrow of President Suharto at the beginning of the Asian crisis.

"In the first four months of the year, the rand increased into

South Africa because it was perceived that, among the currencies of emerging economies, the rand was a safe bet. Then, a precipitous decline began at the end of June. "The fall was completely

There is disagreement about the cause — or causes — of the rand crisis but the current economic picture is clear. In the run-up to the general election 1999, the African National Congress,

dominant in the government of national unity, must deal with a recession and economic indices which show little prospect of contributing towards a reduction in the unemployment rate — in the region of 30 per cent

HIGH interest rates are hurting growth, which has slowed to around 1 per cent. The gold price is lack-lustre and predicted diamond sales are far from dazzling.

This will hit returns from privatisations under the government's Growth, Employment and Redistribution (Gear) programme — already

under fire. Gear was welcomed by the business and financial community when it was unveiled in 1996. But union objections to retrenchments have reduced its progress to a snail's pace.

the inspirational aspects of all that represents the new South Africa — equality of opportunity and training of the work force — look to be in jeopardy. This week, the Employment Equity Bill, under

workplace will become law, is due to complete its passage through parliament. Its objective is to work towards the day when mini-bus taxi passengers from the townships will drive BMWs.

But first, the South African economy must level out and leave behind it the roller coaster trends which are becoming habitual. Mr Jammine said: "Just before Trevor Manuel was appointed

very similar crisis to that which preceded the announcement of the new reserve bank chief. When he produced Gear, the markets showed instant approval and the rand recovered.

that the present crisis was caused by people having advance notice of Mr Mboweni's appointment, then the problem has ended. I tend to agree along with that view but there is undoubtedly a great

celebrates

g year

line" media advertising into faster growing "below the line" marketing and communications areas.

TODAY — Intertrans Card Clear, Golden
Horse Plantations, 33%

THURSDAY — *Interludes* T. Clarke, Metal Bulletin, Save Group. VFG.

Malaysia 8.83	Singapore 2.78
Malta 0.8193	South Africa 8.93
Netherlands 3.1612	Spain 237.58
New Zealand 3.13	Sweden 12.86
Norway 32.88	

Portugal 286.37	Turkey 428,700
Saudi Arabia 5.08	USA 1.5765
West (excluding rupee, shokol and mollar)	

The race is already on to find companies to move in to the "second-hand" space they will be left behind. Some commentators are already concerned that the 6-million-plus square feet of "second-hand" space which is coming on to the market could hammer the property market in the coming year. "The market is sliding into a deep recession."

However, Mr Hargreaves believes such worries are overstated. "There is generally lack of supply and little prospect of a glut in the way there is second-hand space coming through," he said.

The rush to sign up for the uncompleted office space has been driven by the wave of mergers between banks. Legal practices are also consolidating their space. Developers are reluctant to build speculatively — one of the lessons of the last recession — so companies are only able to secure the office space by signing up for it before it is

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


- ## Down

- 1 Low lord, about 101 but all there (5)
- 2 The average dandy has good intentions (5, 4)
- 3 Looking for some conversation (3-7)
- 4 Note the youngsters showing brilliance (7)
- 5 Reconstructing a port to afford good anchorages (7)
- 6 Tip given about social worker (4)
- 7 An article to take pleasure in all the same (5)
- 8 The most majestic sight time could possibly allow (7)
- 9 Engaging heavyweights to arrive in a Northern town (10)
- 10 Officer turning vehicle to change direction (8)
- 11 It's a bloomer to look over-smart (8)
- 12 Edge back out by a Greek character's pointed remark (7)
- 13 Mark keeps the holiday short, being a student (7)
- 21 American woman pilot (5)
- 22 A are entrapped by big newsmen with listening equipment (5)
- 24 Here's the pirate captain's

— 4000 (7)

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IT's confirmed. Most women are perfect and most men are not — at least when it comes to colour vision, writes Celia Weston. Nissan has discovered that the female human eye is far more reliable than machines

says: "On average only about 16 per cent of the population is able to complete the test. But we've discovered that the rate is nearly 100 per cent among our fi-

DIY sector set for consolidation

"DIY and gardening remains an attractive growth market," the report says, "But it is ripe for one more round of consolidation, and competition would be enhanced by the getting together of Great Mills, Do it All and Focus."

Verdict's Clive Vaughan said: "The three would fit geographically and they have similar market positions. Putting them together would give a chain that could give B&Q and Homebase a run for their money. Otherwise these two will just trample on every-

A further shake-up in the industry could be triggered by failing sales. Verdict says last year's 10 per cent sales growth, to £12 billion, will not be repeated. It forecasts that sales growth this year will be only half that level.

But 5 per cent sales growth will make this one of the more buoyant retail sectors. Verdict predicts that DIY will stick to this growth trend. It argues that gardening and home decoration has become the dominant factor, replacing the 1980s fashion for more substantial alterations.

ed with Elf

company DuPont, which has put Conoco up for sale with a \$15 billion price tag, refused to comment on speculation that it was entertaining a bid from oil-price sensitive Elf.

One report suggested that DuPont was considering swapping control of Conoco for Elf's stake in Sanofi, the specialty chemicals and

when the proposed union was perceived to be turning into a takeover. But a Glaxo spokesman said nothing had changed and that no moves were expected in the near future.

The tie-up is, however, likely to be kept on hold until SmithKline's chief executive Jan Leschly, leaves his post,

WPP celebrates a winning year

This week

Tony May

Rentokil Initial, the international business services group, is expected to maintain its "holy grail" of 20 per cent earnings growth. But analysts question whether the group can sustain this growth.

TODAY — Interbus Card Clear, Golden Hope Plantations, ITE, LLP, Polythene, Quarto, Seavright-Rose, Uglend, WFP, Finnair Future Integrated.

TOMORROW — Interbus Emess, Mar-sey Docks, Newquest.

WEDNESDAY — Interbus Micro Focus, JN Nichols (Vinto), Rentoil Initial, Robsey, Weir, Finnair Armlige Bros, Game, NRP.

THURSDAY — Interbus T Clarke, Metal Bulletin, Save Group, VFG.

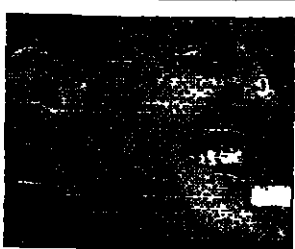
Malaysia 5.83	Singapore 2.78
Malta 0.8193	South Africa 8.93
Netherlands 3.1612	Spain 237.59
New Zealand 3.113	Sweden 12.86
Norway 12.02	Switzerland 2.347
Portugal 286.37	Turkey 429.700

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In the acclaimed 12-page sports section



Whip hand
Channon joins
racing's league
of gentlemen
19



Ring master
Schumacher pulls
out the stops
in Hungary
24



Other pages
Football 14-17
Racing 19, 22
Athletics 20
Golf 21
Results 23
Cricket 24

The Guardian Sport

Monday August 17 1998

www.football.guardian.co.uk

Premiership: the race is on

Southampton 1 Liverpool 2

Owen throws red hat into ring

David Lacey

JOINT management would appear to suit Liverpool, judging from yesterday's result at The Dell. Then again it was their fourth win at Southampton in five visits; more a case, perhaps, of horses for courses than two heads being better than one.

In fact from a practical point of view Liverpool owed their victory less to Gérard Houllier's appointment as an extra pair of hands to work with Roy Evans than Southampton's loss of a defender at a crucial moment late in the game.

In the 74th minute Jason Dodd, their captain and right-back, had been hurt helping

by the attacking inclinations on the right of Vegard Heggem, who increasingly turned Southampton's defence the longer the match progressed.

For a time early in the match it was tempting to believe that Liverpool's enduring problems at the back of the last few seasons were beginning to be solved. Jamie Carragher and Phil Babb dealt competently with Egil Ostenstad and Mark Hughes, but once Southampton began to achieve more pace and accuracy with their crosses some familiar doubts returned.

Nevertheless Liverpool did show more resilience and character. Heggem's presence on the right meant that McAteer played in central midfield, helping Ince to protect the back four.

Southampton appeared to be at an early disadvantage when they lost John Bessford from the left of their midfield after only seven minutes. He was replaced by Wayne Bridge, an 18-year-old local product who steadily combined with Scott Hiley to threaten Liverpool down that flank.

When Southampton took the lead in the 36th minute, however, the goal followed one of Ripley's crosses from the right. After taking a ricochet off Staunton the ball looped into the middle where Ostenstad's head glanced it down into the far corner of the net, touching Ince on the way.

The swiftness of Liverpool's response was encouraging for those who feel this may be Anfield's season to make a serious title challenge. Within two minutes McAteer had found Owen on the left and from the youngster's cross the timing of Riedle's leap left Richard Dryden earthbound as the German nodded the scores level.

Dave Jones had pointedly started the game with Matthew Le Tissier on the bench and afterwards the manager said he would be willing to listen to offers for the player. For more than an hour it appeared that Le Tissier's only contribution would be to keep goal during the substitutes' half-time kick-in. When he did replace Ostenstad for the last 23 minutes it was to little immediate effect, partly because he was pushed up alongside Hughes, which is hardly his natural role.

Nevertheless he might have saved the match for Southampton at the last when the Liverpool defence allowed a dropping ball to reach him in the penalty area only for him to drag his shot wide.

Liverpool's managers afterwards beamed twin smiles, with Evans stressing the importance of character and Houllier talking about the desire to win. In the past, with Liverpool, these were unspoken assumptions, but the team will have gained confidence from yesterday's win all the same.

Match stats

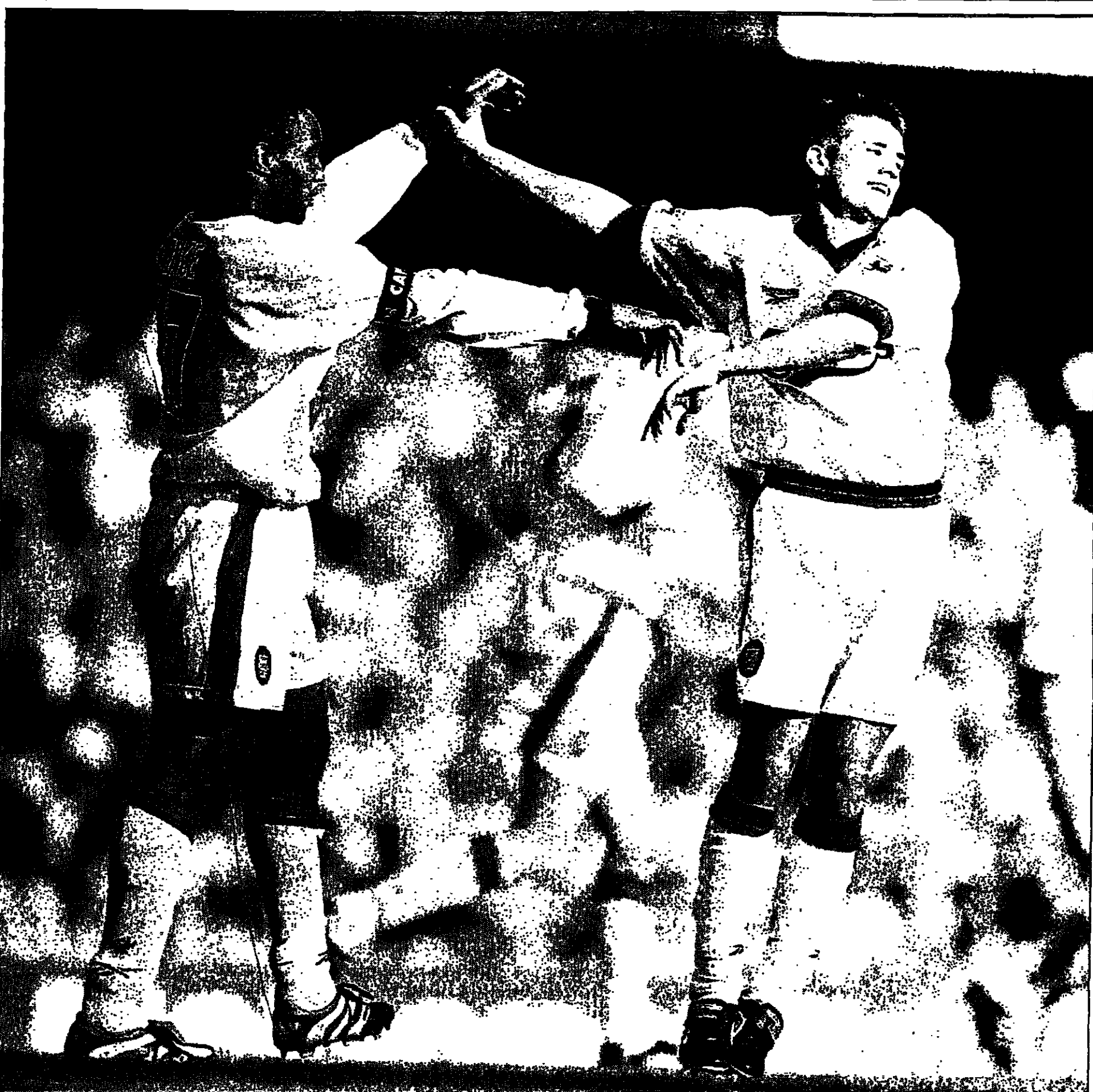
	Soton	Liv
Possession	46%	54%
Attempts on target	3	6
Attempts off target	8	7
Corners	6	4
Fouls	9	8
Offsides	1	3
Bookings	0	3
Sendings-off	0	0

to break up a Liverpool attack and went behind the goal to finish receiving treatment. In the meantime Liverpool won a throw-in on the left. Dodd tried to re-enter the field before it was taken but was waved back by the referee, Paul Alcock, and remained a frustrated spectator as Paul Ince headed on Steve Staunton's long throw and Paul Jones could only palm it down for Michael Owen to score one of his simpler goals. The referee was correct but it was still a hard way for Southampton to lose, particularly as their defence had worked so assiduously to deny Owen scoring opportunities.

Although Liverpool generally passed the ball more imaginatively and at times looked like winning the game through their consistent width and attacking mobility, the amount Southampton put into the game should have earned them a point. They still have not won on the opening day since the 1988-89 season but on this occasion they did not really deserve to lose.

Liverpool's was a mixed performance. The arrival of Houllier has coincided with an even more positive approach, to judge from the initial line-up, which had Ince, Jason McAteer, Steve McManaman and Patrick Berger frequently pushing forward to support Owen and Karlheinz Riedle.

They also look stronger on the flanks now that Staunton has been brought back to Anfield after a seven-year absence. The threat of Staunton on the left was complemented



Dance of the knights... the Liverpool captain Paul Ince congratulates his England team-mate Michael Owen after he scored the winning goal at The Dell. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM CHADWICK

A national hero turned saint

Vivek Chaudhary on a rapturous reception for Michael Owen

HE WAS last off the team bus and last on to the pitch. Perhaps even Michael Owen wanted to savour the country's adulation. As an England colleague of his knows only too well, in football it takes only seconds to fall from national hero to national villain.

The fans had been waiting outside the players' entrance two hours before kick-off to catch a glimpse of the boy wonder, and for the lucky ones there was a chance of an autograph. Teenage girls, children and dads jostled for position. Southampton and Liverpool fans rubbed shoulders. For a few hours team loyalty played second

fiddle to a greater cause: cheering a national hero. "It's great to have him here, a real honour," said Julian Mears, a Saints season-ticket holder. "It doesn't matter what team you support, he belongs to the country."

It is a strange sight in English football, a player cheered by opposing fans. They greeted even his goal with gentle applause. For the moment, Owen can do no wrong.

Even when he lost the ball or clattered into a Southampton player there was none of the usual barracking. "England, England," a group in the corner had cried as he emerged from the tunnel. The crowd only had eyes for him. Auto-

graph books were thrust under his nose, others waved Owen posters.

Everybody wanted a piece of him and the chance to say they had seen him make his return to domestic football as a world superstar. "He's more than a footballer now. He is like a pop star, but he's just a lot nicer with it," said another Southampton fan, Joanne Burridge, 17.

The success and pride of English football rests on Owen's slender shoulders in a season that could be dominated by foreign signings. This is not just small-minded football chauvinism; football everywhere needs a home-grown hero.

And the lad from Cheshire did not let anyone down. All

four sides of the ground cheered him on but he seemed oblivious to his debut as a fully paid-up member of the superstars club. He harried defenders and was as focused as ever.

Early in the second half a small section of the Southampton crowd got their reward. Owen came crashing into them as he chased the ball, and they patted and stroked him, delirious that they had managed to touch their hero. The same fans virtually ignored the Southampton man who tumbled into them with Owen.

At the final whistle it had been business as usual for Owen. He set up one goal and scored another. The Liverpool fans cheered and the Southampton fans applauded him off the pitch and Michael Owen went home a hero. Again.

Michael Owen The Dell boy

Goals	1
Goals inside box	0
Goals outside box	0
Penalties	0
Goal attempts	0
Shots on target (no goals)	2
Shots off target	0
Hit woodwork	0
Blocked shot outside 6 yards	0
Missed penalty	0
Passes	0
Successful passes in opposition half	20
Successful passes in penalty area	2
Unsuccessful passes in own half	3
Tackles	0
Tackles in possession won	0
Tackles possession lost	0
Fouls	0
Free kicks won	1
Free kicks conceded	0
Penalty conceded	0
Caught offside	1
Yellow card	0
Red card	0



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Their kit don't fit

No. 41 Doug Rougie

Tough? They don't know what tough is, your Marcel Desailly and your Frank Leboeuf. Time was when Chelsea defenders came in one size only (titan-mountain), as did their shirts (noble). Fine for Pat Nevin, nipple torture for Doug.



The Australian Keepers XI

They're overstretched and over here

Mark Bosnich	Saved Collins penalty in Villa clean sheet
Steve Ho	Saved Rufus's blunders in Charlton clean sheet
Mark Schwarzer	Saved from Aussie Kewell in Charlton clean sheet
John Filan	Saved a point in Blackburn clean sheet
Frank Tallis	Back in favour as Swindon's shot-stopper
Jason Kerrison	Blooming at Crewe after Everton injury
Andrew Fildes	Bliss for Peterborough as he's back in action
Steve Hogg	His penalty (understandably) has already let in seven
Zeinab Kaine	Full-time fall guy at Leicester and Portsmouth
Yann Sappé	Headline writer's delight in reserve at Coventry
Sam Healy	Hoping to impress scouts on England tour

A life in pictures

Kevin Keegan



1974 Sent off at Wembley. End of innocence at the Charity Shield



1976 Falls off bike in Superstars. End of BBC's no-claims bonus



1990 Kisses Mrs Thatcher. End of political credibility



1997 Joins Fulham. End of Mohamed Al-Fayed's personal fortune

Ask the experts

H

AVE you ever wondered why Burley played Manchester City in the 1973 Charity Shield? Perhaps you would like the definitive answer as to which was the ugliest trophy ever awarded, or who the first player was to wear coloured boots in English football. And what exactly is a Throistle when it's at home? We're

inviting you to ask the experts — your fellow Clogger readers — whatever nagging football questions are troubling you. Send your questions and answers to the address at the bottom of the page or post them on the Guardian's football bulletin board at: football@guardian.co.uk

To kick off, this week's question is: The seed for penalty shoot-outs to settle knockout matches did not seem pressing until the 1970s. Why were there so many fewer draws games — for example, only one FA Cup final between 1971 and 1981 — before then?

State of the nation Israel

Population Five million

Registered clubs 283

Unlikely league champions

British Police (1993)

Pioneer The first Israeli to

play in the Football League

was the left-back Avi Cohen,

who joined Liverpool in 1978.

He scored in his third game,

but subsequently made only

15 more appearances for the

Anfield club. Later resur-

faced briefly at Rangers.

Important import Beryl

Berkovic may be the best

Israeli seen in this country,

but Ronny Rosenthal (below)

has arguably achieved more

in his spells with Liverpool,

Tottenham and Watford by

making spectacular goals

with endearingly full-blooded

clumsiness. A true cult.

Stranger in a strange land

Itzhak Zohar, Crystal Palace's

£1 million signing from

Antwerp, was released last

season after just eight

games, including one

when he came on for

eight minutes

against

Southampton

and missed a

penalty that

would have given

Palace their first

home win of the

season.

One that got away

Mordechai Spiegler,

the star of Israel's

1970 World Cup

finals campaign,

was lined up

for a transfer

to West

Ham, but

failed to get

a work permit.

A-Z of British football

A

is for Animals, used to

describe Argentinians in

the Sixties, hooligans in

the Seventies and Wim-

bledon in the Eighties.

Classic usage: "Our best

football will come against

a team who come to play

football and not act as

animals." — Sir Alf Ramsey

International velvet Israel's

best World Cup moment since

1970 was in 1983, when two

late goals secured a 3-2 win

over France in Paris, which

ultimately denied the French

a place at USA 94.

Thanks to their

long political isolation,

Israel's keenest football

rivals have often been

Australia, whom they

played in several

hard-fought World

Cup qualifying

competitions between 1969

and 1989.

Israel's club sides have

yet to make an impact

on European club

competitions since

their readmission in

1989. That's a polite

way of putting it for

Hapoel Beer Sheva,

who lost 14-1 on

aggregate to Hol-

land's Rodeo JC

Kerkade in last

season's Cup

Winners' Cup.

Winners' Cup.

Winners' Cup.

Winners' Cup.

Winners' Cup.

Winners' Cup.

Winners' Cup.

Winners' Cup.

Refwatch

Graham

Barber

Home town

Pyrford, Surrey

Home town's other

claim to fame

Features in HG

Wells's The War Of

The Worlds.

Occupation Field

sales manager,

Hobbes Theatre,

cinema eating out.

Yesterday's

highlight Booking

Dennis Wise for protesting

that the Coventry wall

was not 10 yards back.

Trademark gestures A keen

arm-raiser and finger-

wagger. Barber does a lovely

"play-on" with both hands

lowered towards the turf.

Brandishes cards in this

manner of... A long-sighted

shopper checking their list.

The gaffer tapes

Managerial pearls

of wisdom

"We are not cert for promo-

tion after one win and we are

not cert for promotion

after one defeat." Manchester

City's Joe Royle confirms the

club are not cert for anything.

"We have conceded two goals

in each of our games and if

you do that throughout the

season you will concede 30-

odd goals." John Rudge's

incredible arithmetic points to

a hard slog for Port Vale.

"We've got a great spirit here

which you can't buy. People

think it's a cheap commodity

but it's not."

Gordon Strachan, with what

can only be called a cheap shot

at yesterday's opponents.

Football: The Premiership kicks off

Manchester United 2 Leicester City 2

Beckham rescues United

Russell Thomas

sees two late goals

save Ferguson's men

from shock defeat

ALEX FERGUSON and Martin O'Neill looked so drawn after this experience that the match might have been lodged in May, that month of grim resolution, rather than August, when everything seems possible.

The stop-the-watch instructions from Ferguson and manic gesticulations from O'Neill vividly endorsed the impression that the Premiership has never been away.

Football has come home, or at least to Old Trafford, very quickly, which is just as well for two adopted sons from the South-east. For David Beckham and Teddy Sheringham, whose late goals improbably rescued Manchester United from embarrassing opening-day defeat, there was the sound of loud acclamation rather than post-World Cup vilification. For them it was a welcome respite from Wembley last week and for what lies ahead on their travels across England.

Leicester's vociferous fans were drowned out by Beck-

Match stats

	Man U	Leic
Possession	58%	42%
Attempts on target	7	6
Attempts off target	6	3
Corners	9	6
Fouls	13	15
Offsides	3	1
Bookings	1	3

ham's trademark free-kick in added-on time as the exultant midfielder almost literally wrapped himself in the embrace of his Old Trafford adoration society.

United's energy in the frantic last quarter surprised Ferguson, who believes his side are still short of peak fitness. Ultimately, too, he was grateful for a point from an afternoon mocking their aspirations to recover the title. "It was a good result for us," he conceded. "Whether we deserved it was debatable."

There was insufficient time to determine the wisdom of Ferguson's £10.75 million investment in Jaap Stam, since the world's most expensive defender lasted only the first half of his Premiership debut.

According to Ferguson, "he pulled a thigh muscle inside the first 15 minutes" and is likely to be out for two weeks. It will be no reassurance to United followers to know that his central partner Ronny Johnsen, who equalised United, is especially against the muscular runs of Emile Heskey.

So United will travel to West Ham and then to Poland without Stam but with the burden of the past. For this state-of-play performance was as much about continuing forward fallings as defensive inadequacies. To this can be added lack of midfield creativity, with United remaining over-dependent on Beckham's crosses as well as



Shouldering responsibility... David Beckham is congratulated after scoring the equaliser

PHOTOGRAPH BY IAN HODGSON

his dead-ball deliveries.

Beckham has just signed a new five-year contract worth reportedly up to £7 million, meanwhile Ryan Giggs was said to have been given a new lease of life with a free role. After the Welshman's much-lauded performance in midweek, it was suggested that he could fill the gaping hole left by the £12 million burning in his pocket. It already seems a fanciful notion.

The test of Giggs's versatility was taken a stage further here since he effectively partnered the frustrated — and frustrated — Andy Cole for most of the game.

But, far from being liberated, Giggs looked enchained until he returned to the much more familiar territory of the left flank in the last quarter. If it is any consolation, he will play against few Premiership defences as thickly populated and efficient as Leicester's, in which the £2 million Frank Sinclair played with remarkable assurance on his debut.

"They don't need a goalkeeper," said Ferguson admiringly of Leicester, who, in fact, were forced to use two because of Kasey Keller's groin injury in the second half. "They defended brilliantly," added the United

manager. "Some of their blocks were unbelievable." But the breaks, ultimately, went United's way. Sheringham's headed diversion of Beckham's shot was, if deliberate, absolutely masterly, and Beckham's free-kick followed a rare instance of a referee strictly applying the 10-yard rule. Even then, as O'Neill correctly remarked, his substitute goalkeeper Peggy Arphexad should have saved it.

United's defence was in trouble even before Muzzy Izet stumbled past two men and crossed for Heskey to miscue but score after seven minutes. Tony Cottee was unchallenged

in the 78th minute as he headed in Robbie Savage's early cross and celebrated as if, as here in January, his goal was the match winner.

The last 15 minutes were rendered an eternity by running repairs. Matt Elliott came off with a suspected broken nose and the referee Neale Barry briefly for leg treatment. Even after Beckham's equaliser there was time for Steve Walsh to be booked after a tussle with Sheringham. The very last 10 minutes were a blur of Ford lay with O'Neill. Stressed out already? "Wait until you see me in October," he replied.

Everton 0 Aston Villa 0

Smith kept waiting for first flush of success

Ian Ross

OPENING days can often be misleading as they tend to lead themselves to irritatingly trite observations, many of which hint at authority and intelligence but are in reality hollow and meaningless.

Everton are currently not helping much. They may still enjoy a deserved reputation for the warmth of the welcome they extend to their guests but curiously they no longer permit members of the media to come face to face with the manager after first-team games.

And so it was by way of an audio-link — a small speaker just outside the press room — that the afternoon had contrived to pull together all the differing strands of mediocrity.

Both sets of players seemed reasonably content with the outcome. Presumably they were working on the premise that if you are going to produce an inept and colourless performance then day one is not a bad time to do so.

So much has happened at

Everton since the dark days of May, when the club's desperate attempt to avoid relegation came off, that it was perhaps inevitable that expectations were raised to an unprecedented level.

Everything was in place: a new manager, several expensive new players, a full stadium, sunshine, balloons and dancing girls.

Then, sadly, it was 3pm and time for harsh reality to slap 40,000 Scousers about the face while screaming "Get a grip, get real!"

The excuses flowed like strong ale afterwards, the most reasonable being that change does take time and that nothing good ever happens overnight these days.

History will determine whether Everton's latest saviour-in-waiting, Walter Smith, is dismantling a monster or building one, but amid the misplaced pines and the fragile confidence there was at least a glimmer of hope.

The Frenchman Olivier Dacourt, a bustling, aggressive midfielder anchorman, was marvellous and it was pleasing to see John Collins improving the theory that to be good you have to be both young and fleet of foot.

Even John Gregory, the

deserve credit," he said. But, as Collins later conceded, Everton's game still lacks any genuine width and, until such time as Duncan Ferguson is given a reliable service from the flanks, goals will continue to represent a luxury item.

Aston Villa'sointment was similarly crawling with flies. Their level of timidity seemed to surprise even Gregory, a man of chest-thumping enthusiasm who would rather his charges perished on their feet than cowered on their knees.

Villa actually appeared to be waiting for the fire in Everton's bellies to be extinguished by the frosty waters of mounting frustration, but even after their opponents fell apart like a bag of flour hitting a pavement they could not conjure up the guile to capitalise.

The game's outstanding chance fell to Collins as early as the 10th minute but he could not take it, steering his penalty kick into Mark Bosnich's right hand after John Spencer had been impeded — well, brushed aside — by Ricardo Scimeca.

Smith probably had much to say about his rather low-key introduction to life in English football but unfortunately a flushing toilet drowned out his words of wisdom. That, one suspects, is what is known as not being privy to the relevant information.

Blackburn Rovers 0 Derby County 0

Hodgson looks to solve his striking defensive problem

Adam Sills

ROBERT HODGSON pledged to continue his pursuit of a "big name" centre-back despite seeing the overturn to a campaign that holds great hopes for both sides and in a goalless stalemate. The cheque-book of Blackburn's chairman Jack Walker is again open and his manager is eager to spend.

With the defence depleted by the departure of Colin Hendry to Rangers and injuries to Marion Broomes and Ture Federsen, Hodgson said: "Jack has made it clear he is prepared to spend money on a good player but the next thing is finding that big name available. Colin's leaving us so late has not given us a lot of time to prepare a replacement."

Hodgson is pressed by Thursday's deadline for the first three rounds of the Uefa Cup and does not need his defensive worries compounded by a striking line-up which could fire only blanks on Saturday.

He will hope that the partnership of his £7.25 million signing Kevin Davies and the £5 million Chris Sutton will quickly discover a cutting edge, something Sutton surely found frequently during his summer of cricket.

The embarrassment of striking riches on display for a disappointing crowd of 24,007 was indicated by the fact that the two strikers with a France 98 pedigree, Derby's Jamaican Sports Personality of the Year Dean Burton and

Rovers' Scot Kevin Gallacher, were warming their respective benches. By the time they were introduced it was too late to repeat last season's opening-day 1-0 win for Rovers.

Davies became the subject of the most expensive close-season transfer between English clubs when he moved from Southampton. The bearer of this tag last year was the Aston Villa striker Stan Collymore and the whole of Blackburn will hope that Davies does not prove to be a similarly loose cannon, except in the sense of firing lots of surprise shots.

Derby's colourful attack, with Paulo Wanchope achieving the banal and the brilliant but nothing in between, always posed a threat on the counter-attack — "there were always two or three lurking upfield; goal-hanging we used to call it in the playground," said Hodgson — to a Blackburn back line in which Darren Peacock handed the Rams two gift-wrapped chances.

His slip let in Dean Sturridge, who put his job wide, and a seemingly routine back-header from the former Newcastle man forced John Filan into an acrobatic save.

With Derby's defence weakened by the absence of the Croat Igor Stimac and featuring the untried but ultimately solid combination of Stefan Schnoor and Horatio Carbonari, the lack of goals was a surprise. But Russell Holt made three outstanding saves and deserved his luck when Garry Flitcroft hit an upright.

Off the park life



Our first competition of the season features players in various non-footballing circumstances. As a gentle warm-up, all we want to know this week is: who is this patchily-shaven gent and which top-notch venue is he pictured at? Each week one reader can win their choice of this month's new titles from the Football Book Club (0171-561 1606 for their catalogue). Post, fax or e-mail your answer to the address below.

Clogger welcomes contributions. Write to the Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. You can e-mail us at clogger@guardian.co.uk or fax us on 0171-743 4107.

مكتبة الأمل

Premiership: Coventry City 2 Chelsea 1

David Lacey

One match is hardly sufficient evidence for making lasting judgments but since Michael Duberry had to be left

down in their souls, that they can win another. Otherwise it will be back to the cups with more stale periods in between.

Baldly speaking . . . Frank Leboeuf gets the better of the Coventry captain Dion Dublin but Chelsea lost 2-1 **TOM JENKINS**

Chelsea's tale of the tape

	Goalkeepers	Defenders	Midfielders	Forwards	Goalkeepers	Defenders	Midfielders	Forwards
Goals scored	6	10	11	11	2	1	1	1
Goals conceded	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Points per game	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Goals per game	0.20	0.33	0.37	0.37	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.03
Goals conceded per game	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Points per goal	3.33	2.00	1.67	1.67	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Goals per point	0.30	0.33	0.37	0.37	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.03
Goals conceded per point	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03

Overall
Goals scored
Yellow cards
Red cards

Martin Thorpe sees the England coach prepare to clear the air with his senior players

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the players' union,

"The whole object of the exercise was to manage the England team and win the World Cup for England."

Troussier's contract was not renewed after the World Cup and his replacement is expected to be named by early October. Gullit's agent Jon Smith said: "Ruud's been offered four or five jobs — two in England — but he's not been that enthusiastic about

Norway beat England 2-0 in Lillestrom in their final women's World Cup qualifier to take the group's automatic berth ahead of Germany.

As Wright had hit the net on his debuts for his last two clubs, Crystal Palace and Arsenal, no one was astonished. Yet he had already blazed one sizzling hammer over the bar and, with the Hammers' lethargic mid-

"Unfortunately it had to all to him," said the rueful Wednesday manager Danny Wilson. "With anyone else we might have had chance but he's had a brilliant career putting away goals like that."

Meanwhile the spotlight will again be on their 34-year-old, £750,000 striker who will be out to prove that Happy Harry has indeed got the Wright Stuff.

Tottenham currently sit bottom of the Premiership, and though that has as much meaning at this stage as Wimbledon's position at the top, it

Nothing is that complicated
at Wimbledon. The manager
Joe Kinnear has nearly
£4 million in total to spend on
new players, cannot afford
the ones he wants so will wait

when Ruel Fox helped on Saib's shot, and Ginola hit the bar. But after last season's 6-2 drubbing in the equivalent fixture, this was Wimbledon's day.

[illegible]

Football: the North-east

Middlesbrough 0 Leeds United 0

Gascoigne sees lighter shade of red

Michael Walker

GLENN HODDLE would have had a name for it. Thirty-two minutes of this sadistically bad match had gone and his only point of interest, Paul Gascoigne, looked in danger of spontaneous combustion; he had performed a challenge on Clyde Wijnhoud of furnace ferocity only two minutes after being tackled by the towering Lee Bowyer in the face, and his body gave one of those trademark electric-shock jerks. At that moment, in Hoddlespeak, Gascoigne had his headless head on.

That this situation lasted only a short time, and that he did not lose it altogether to round off a dismal week with a red card, is a tribute to a rarely seen aspect of Gascoigne's personality, self-restraint. Then again, given the circumstances, restraint was due.

Last Friday morning Gascoigne made an emotional entrance to Middlesbrough's otherwise prosaic five-a-sides having arrived on time for dinner and "a few drinks". It is not known exactly how much alcohol the men consumed — Bryan Robson said Gascoigne told him that he had had two glasses of red wine — but the effect on Cheek was fatal. Sadly, the death of this unemployed father of four is pertinent only because he was a friend of the most famous

footballer in the land, and an equally uncomfortable fact for the public, the media and the Middlesbrough fans is that the questions asked on Saturday morning focused on the impact another distressing episode would have on Gascoigne.

After all, Cheek's death followed news of Sheryl Gascoigne's desire for a "quickie" divorce (Monday's Sun) and then Hoddle's lamp-breaking, chair-kicking revelations (Tuesday's Sun). Consequently it would have been understandable had Gascoigne not shown up at all, but having taken counsel from Paul Merson he assured Robson of his mental stability and appeared wearing a black armband.

"It was touch and go whether he played," said Merson. "But I said to him, 'I'd play. You're only going to think about it even more if you don't.' But Gazza's a very caring person and tonight he is going to find it hard again." Merson was right about Gascoigne's sense of personal responsibility. According to Robson, "the kid (Gascoigne) was really upset because he paid for the meals, which included the drinks and that, and one of his best mates has had a heart attack on the night he's taken him out for a meal. With everything else going on this week, the Sheryl thing being publicised, then Glenn Hoddle's comments, it's been a traumatic week for the kid. That's why he did so well today to control his emotions."

Back in the 33rd minute it did not look like that. Having been taunted with chants of "Gazza beats his wife" and "Too fat for the Inger-land"



Elbow grease... Paul Gascoigne, left, challenges Lee Bowyer

PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG PRENTIS

by those ever-so-moderate Leeds fans, Gascoigne was on the brink of darkness. A light stayed on somewhere, probably fuelled by a couple of decent passes and some considerate refereeing by David Elleray. Afterwards Elleray said he and Gascoigne had spoken throughout the game. "Preventative action", Elleray called it.

Elleray also said he did not consider showing a red card

for the Bowyer incident because Gascoigne had not used his forearm "as a weapon". None the less it was still the sharpest thing at the River-side, though had Harry Kewell shown more confidence after 45 seconds and exploited Dean Gordon's woeful error, Leeds would surely have gone on to win it comfortably. — George Graham's analysis.

But Kewell underperformed, as did the returning

Lee Sharpe, and it seemed from Graham's reaction that the realisation that Bowyer's severely weakened team too late, Leeds, in fact, almost lost. Seven minutes from time the man of every moment cut inside only to shoot straight at Nigel Martyn. Gascoigne's shock in May delivering his final ball with all the accuracy of pensioner scattering seeds to pigeons.

On the right Steve Wat-

Toon Army learning to lower its sights

Harry Pearson sees Newcastle keep their wings trimmed and fall short of invention in a goalless draw with 10-man Charlton

A NEWCASTLE fan recently suggested the Keegan years raised expectations on Tyneside falsely high. Even the most grimly realistic member of the Toon Army, however, might have anticipated victory over a Charlton side reduced to 10 men in the 26th minute when Richard Ruffus delivered an elbow to Nikos Dabizas's head with sufficient force to draw blood.

That they did not win says something about the current side's lack of invention, particularly in midfield where Robert Lee, Dabizas and the recruit from Bavaria, Dietmar Hamann, too often tripped over one another in their eagerness to occupy the centre.

The 55 million man Gary Speed, meanwhile, gave weight to a growing feeling that, for him, signing for Newcastle has had much the same effect as joining the Foreign Legion. It has rendered him anonymous, but perhaps not anonymously enough. Whenever Hamann got the ball fans yelled "Shoot!" When Speed received it the cry sounded similar except that it rained with hits. With their more conspicuous midfield players clustered in the middle, Newcastle were reliant on the full-backs for width. On the left Alessandro Pistone carried on much where he left out at Wembley in May delivering his final ball with all the accuracy of pensioner scattering seeds to pigeons.

On the right Steve Wat-

son fared slightly better. As a teenager the Wallsend-born Watson used to whisk past defenders with ease. Nowadays he is bigger, stronger and a better all-round player but some of his youthful zip has gone. On the couple of occasions when he did beat his man, employing that characteristic Waddle-esque step over the ball followed by a drop-shouldered sway, his

crosses created openings for his fellow Georgians Alan Shearer. From the first Danny Miller had to clear off the line.

In the second half Newcastle had even more possession but paradoxically looked less likely to score. Although Lee, Hamann and, briefly, the substitute John Barnes swept the ball around elegantly in the acres the visitors conceded in midfield, they could find neither the finesse nor power to prise open some space in the crowded send around the Charlton goal. Temuri Ketsbaia, who came on for the lightweight Andreas Andersson, had the best opportunity, squirming his way into the area only to

fire wide. Hamann had a decent shot from the edge of the area. So did Alessandro Pistone. Apart from that Sasa Ilic was untouchable in the middle of it all Shearer looked increasingly frustrated at the lack of shooting opportunities, a gunslinger surrounded by pacifists.

Laurent Charvet, the other summer purchase on display for the home side, acquitted himself well enough. The bottle-blond Frenchman read the game well, though he seemed to have trouble with some of Stuart Pearce's hand signals. He was also noticeably more comfortable against the nimble Clive Mendonca than the more muscular presence of his replacement Steve Jones.

At the final whistle Charlton, for whom the strapping Eddie Yonds had an outstanding game, celebrated with their supporters while Newcastle trooped off to a ramble of discontent.

The grumbling continued on the westbound train out of the city. Four 13-year-olds from Prudhoe lamented loudly and with inventive obscenity the disappearance of Gaiola, Asprilla and Beardsley and the all too late arrival of the popular Georgian Ketsbaia. Perhaps the Magpie pragmatist was right and Kenny Dalglish's brand of tough love is what these lads need.

After all, wandering to people's fantasies may satisfy them for a while. In the long term, though, it leads only to discontent. They may complain, now, but

Match stats

	Newc	Chrltn
Possession	60%	40%
Attempts on target	6	4
Attempts off target	12	5
Corners	10	1
Fouls	9	17
Offsides	4	0
Bookings	4	3
Sendings-off	0	1

FA Cup

PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

Nationwide League

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

FOURTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

FIFTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

SIXTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

SEVENTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

EIGHTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

NINTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

TENTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

ELEVENTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

TWELFTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Whitby	1	0	0	1	3	1	0

THIRTEENTH DIVISION

Stokes.....	(212	Mauckesfield.....	R/N
Crowe 25			
Thorne 36			
Stokes Muggleton, Shaw, Small, Stigardson, Robinson (Whitby 89), Woods, Koel, Kawest, Thorne Crowe, Clafford (Pittsburg 88), St. But (not used) Lightbourne.			
Mauckesfield Price, Thorne, Ingram, Payne, McDonald, Stofe, Aylward, Wood, Tomlinson Bancroft 70, Sorvel, Whitehouse. Sub (not used) Dunbar 89, Thorne 89, Thorne 89, Thorne 89.			
Atch 13,881. Beth B Coddington (Sheffield).			
Walsall.....	(70	Northampton.....	6/N
Walsall Walker, Ash, Polson, Keeler (Richards 80), Green, Vinnish, Wreck, Watson (Fleet 71), Rummelfort Porter (Keston 71) Brenton.			
Northampton Woodman, Clarkson, Fran, Bishop, Warburton, Sisson, Guba (Warner 80), Pear, Haggan, Corazzini (Fresno 88), Hill Sub (not used), Hart.			

First Division

Birmingham 3
Crystal Palace 1

Palace lie low under Adebola fire

Peter White

FERRY VENABLES needed a reminder of the difficulties he faces in getting Crystal Palace back in the Premiership at the first attempt, they were set before him and almost 17,000 spectators at St Andrews yesterday.

Although Attilio Lombardo, Sasa Curcic and the impressive teenager Hayden Mullins ventured forward at every opportunity, Birmingham were quick to expose defensive frailties with smart counter-attacks set up in the main by the precision passing from deep of the full-back Simon Charlton.

As a result Birmingham secured not only three points but the three goals required to move them to the top of the table. If they can continue to reproduce this type of form, then they must have a far better chance than Palace of playing a leading role in the promotion battle.

In these days of inflated transfer fees it is not surprising that the Birmingham manager Trevor Francis believes he got a bargain when he signed Dale Adebola from Crewe for £1 million last February. Francis has already intimated that the striker will not be sold, whatever offers are tabled.

Adebola confirmed Francis's faith in him, scoring an early goal, then exploiting the space left by Palace's advancing midfielders to keep the visitors' defence at full stretch. "He is an awesome player and very important to us," Francis said. And Venable effectively agreed: "He caused us trouble and is capable of giving defenders problems at a higher level than this."

Adebola, having to cope without his fellow striker Paul Furlong (hamstring), seized the initiative with an opportunistic goal after 12 minutes, moving unmarked to the edge of the six-yard area to convert Charlton's low, hard cross from the left.

Within 16 minutes they had doubled their advantage. This time Charlton's run into the area was halted as Mark Edwards pulled back, and Martin O'Connor shouldered the responsibility of beating the Palace goalkeeper Kevin Miller from the spot.

It was a decision which angered Venable. "It was harsh and the turning point of the game," he claimed. "If that was a penalty, then we should have had one early in the second half when Michael Johnson committed the same offence on Bruce Dyer. It is those type of inconsistencies which I find so annoying."

Mullins, the former Palace youth team captain, capitalised on some indecision between the Birmingham keeper Ian Bennett and the defender Johnson to reduce the deficit after 72 minutes. But the home side's momentum was broken by a second-half injury-time when Martin Grainger provided the pass for his fellow substitute Nicky Forster to score from close range.

Venable, who is on the verge of signing as many as five players, added: "Conceding two early goals was a blow and this is something we have got to work on. But it is all about bedding down the side. It is still early days."

There is no doubting that Venable has inherited some players of individual skill but it would appear that the Palace manager faces a daunting task in finding the blend that will enable his side to figure prominently in the First Division promotion race. He awaits international clearance on an Israeli, an Australian and two Chinese players.



Shaky foundations? ... workmen pack up their equipment and leave the ground just before kick-off yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT GORE

Third Division: Halifax Town 1 Brentford 0

Halifax back and enjoying the high life

Jeremy Alexander finds a team thriving on the pitch after a five-year absence but threatened by behind-the-scenes turmoil

AT THE time of going to press Halifax are on their third chairman of the summer, their second in a week. They are also on their second manager in a fortnight and have a player-coach not recognised by the management, present or previous. No wonder the programme bills a "crowd doctor". For the moment they are a club built on soap (dramatic personae to follow). As Trevor Brook, who has "no idea what's happening" might say: "I mean, it could go either way."

In fact it has gone like a dream. Halifax, back in the Football League after a five-year absence, won at Peterborough on the opening day, then at Wrexham in the Worthington Cup, and now extended the run by beating Brentford, the bookmakers' favourites, who entered the division from the other end. Kieran O'Regan, Saturday's manager, has "no idea what's happening" but said perky: "Keep up the strife and let us play."

He is still getting used to player-manager, having

switched from player-coach. George Mulhall, who took the club up from the Conference, was due to become director of football at the end of this season but was shifted four days before his start. Chris Holland, from Scunthorpe, was chairman then but he stepped down last week, re-admitting Jim Brown, who held the office when they went down and has remained influential.

And this is where the Butler comes in. Without management consultation Peter Butler came on a free transfer from West Brom in the summer with the promise of a player-coach role. Brown and Butler's sister are what David Mellor calls "an item". So far, with a tactical injury, Butler has neither played nor coached.

Similarly Holland, with a tactical misunderstanding, played it straight in the programme slot "Boardroom Banter". Equally wisely the man in charge of car-park slots has given up altogether: four were wrongly labelled. It is so

much easier at Brentford. Ron Noades did his best to fill all his roles. He watched the first half from the stand, seeing Geoff Horsfield, top scorer in the Conference with 34 goals last season, stab in from a corner to maintain his record of a goal a game. And for the second he propped himself against the dug-out as his team chased the game with crosses from Paul Watson which Halifax attacked with far more purpose than Brentford.

Jon Brown, forced into service as a sweeper, was outstanding. There was a spirit and sureness about Halifax despite depletions which threatened to take three midfielders at short notice on one-month contracts. They will soon be known, after the pub up the road, as The Three Pigeons. Richard Lucas, from Hartlepool, has been taken on permanently. Horsfield, Dave Hanson, Kevin Hulme and Andy Thackray all might have enlarged Halifax's lead.

Afterwards Noades spoke like a manager, except that, contrary to tradition, he did not defend his team. "Injuries? Only in the head." Every man needs a scapegoat. If only the Noadeshow reflected his patent leather shoes.



Magical Shayman ... Geoff Horsfield celebrates his goal

First Division: Watford 1 Bradford 0

Taylor's video freebie turns Watford on

Jon Brodwin

GRAHAM TAYLOR will probably never restore his battered reputation outside Watford. Witness the Bolton fan who won £50 and banned from football grounds for three months for throwing a turnip at his feet during his time at Wolves.

But if unfounded doubts persist about his managerial prowess, this match proved beyond doubt that Taylor knows a good video when he sees one.

It was on the strength of video highlights that he brought the Zaire international Michel Nkonge to Watford from Trabzonspor of Turkey on a free this summer.

Communication was difficult at first — "The English I learn in lessons is very different from that in the dressing room," the Belgian-born striker noted — but the teething problems are over. Nkonge scored the only goal on his debut on Saturday to remind Bradford that the best things in life are often free.

Bradford's manager Paul

Jewell has been spending money like a man auditioning for a remake of *Brewster's Millions*. But all to little effect. This was their second league defeat, and their record signings, Lee Mills and Isaiah Rankin, finished on the bench. At £2.3 million they cost three times as much as Watford's team.

Watford's chairman Elton John is not a man known to fret about his overdraft, but the artist formerly known as Reginald Dwight hopes to keep his cheque-book closed. He is an infrequent visitor

to Vicarage Road these days, having said Goodbye English Roads for a US tour. But his music is still played over the Tannoy, hinting at a desire for a promotion of sorts.

Not that Taylor is glancing enviously at Jewell's riches. "How can I encourage parents to bring their boys here if all we do spend money we haven't got?" he said. "I'm quite happy building the way we are. If and when we get into the Premiership our foundations will be much stronger because we'll have people who care for the club."

Rankin was so desperate to show he cared after his move from Arsenal on Thursday that he suffered cramp in training and wasted two good chances after hitting the post.

Nkonge, 31, showed him the way. Tony Daley — yes, that one — picked out Micah Hyde and Nkonge met his cross with a flying header which squeezed over the line. "Either side could have won if you were looking at it from an impartial view," Taylor conceded. "But I'm not and I'm bloody pleased." Did Paul Jewell not like that?

Scottish Premier League

Aberdeen 3 Celtic 2

Celtic pay penalty for missed chances

Patrick Glenn

CELTIC'S players found a whole new way of embarrassing themselves in public last night, managing to lose a match they should have won comfortably.

Mostly on top in outfield play, they missed two penalty kicks — one by Simon Donnelly, the other by Craig Burley — scored an own-goal through Regi Blinker and had Darren Jackson sent off when retaliation incurred his second yellow card 10 minutes from the end.

David Rowson, the young Aberdeen midfielder, was red-carded three minutes later for a crude challenge on Jackie McNamara. It seemed hardly credible that the visitors could be awarded a third penalty, but they were, in the fourth minute of stoppage time, when John Inglis fouled Enrico Annoni. This time Henrik Larsson drove the ball powerfully past Jim Leighton.

Celtic under Josef Venglos play a more attacking game but there are times when that leads merely to showing how good they are at passing up good scoring chances. They should, for example, have established a telling lead by the interval, after a first half in which they were not only dominant but created two golden opportunities. Instead they fell behind to an extraordinary goal from Mark Perry during one of the home side's few forward thrusts.

It was a low drive by Blinker which gave Larsson the first of the openings which should have been made to count. The Swede, normally reliable in such circumstances, first-timed his shot wide from eight yards. Jackson was slightly further out when he had his chance but pulled it narrowly wide of Leighton's right-hand post.

Aberdeen's skirmishing had been energetic rather

than imaginative or penetrative, and another move seemed to have collapsed when the ball dropped to Perry some 25 yards out. The tall midfielder, a converted defender, hit it on the volley and the ball described a parabola before dropping behind Jonathan Gould at his left-hand corner.

To the Celtic support, that first goal probably seemed a retrievable mishap — until the follies of the second half.

When Anderson, in the 50th minute, handled Blinker's corner kick from the right it was assumed that Craig Burley would convert the penalty — as he had to score the winner on Celtic's last visit to Pittodrie. Instead Donnelly took on the job and drove the ball against Leighton's right-hand post.

The next piece of nonsense was perpetrated by Blinker, who ran back to meet a long free-kick from Gary Smith and headed the ball past the advancing Gould to double Aberdeen's lead with as neat an own-goal as anyone could imagine.

That arrived only six minutes after the missed penalty, and three minutes later the home side were three ahead. It was a beautiful pass from Eoin Jess into the right side of the area which released Craig Hignett and the former Middlesbrough man dragged the ball wide of Gould before drilling it low into the net from 15 yards to the right of goal.

Donnelly had been replaced by Harald Brattbakk by the time Paul Lambert was brought down by Derek Whyte, and this time Burley allowed Leighton to save the kick with a dive to his left. Larsson made sure of the third penalty but then Celtic had run out of time.

Aberdeen: Leighton, Anderson, Inglis, Whyte, Smith, Kilmartin, Rowson, Perry, Dods, Jess.

Celtic: Gould, McNamara, Ripper, Annoni, Scott, Donnelly, Burley, Lambert, Blinker, Jackson, Larsson.

Referee: W Young (Glasgow).

Scottish round-up

Albertz plea as fans blow cold

RANGERS' first victory, on their second outing of the campaign, may have been met by a wave of joy, but it was riding on an undercurrent of unease, writes Patrick Glenn.

When Jorg Albertz converted a last-minute penalty to secure a 2-1 win over Motherwell at Ibrox, even the most triumphant supporters in the game could barely disguise their lack of conviction.

They had seen Dick Advocaat's side spend most of the time inside the visitors' half without demonstrating the wit to overcome Motherwell's redoubtable defending in numbers. It was not what had been expected of a team who has cost £23 million to overhaul since the Dutchman arrived.

Albertz seemed to have sensed the fans' shifting of feet when he spoke afterwards. "They will have to be a little patient with us," said the German midfielder. "It takes some time for new players to come together and it's obvious that we need a few more games."

"It's not possible to say how long it will take and realise the supporters want success all the time. But so far they have shown understanding."

Patience may not survive many more similar performances, even if there was little argument over Rangers' superiority. Expectations rose in the 15th minute, when Alex Walker's brilliant run brought a lead that seemed certain to be extended.

The lack of penetration thereafter revealed Rangers' lack of a genuine predator in the box. Gabriel Amato, the Argentinian from Real Madrid, seems nothing like as deadly as his predecessor Ally McCoist.

With Owen Coyle equalising early in the second half, Rangers required Kai Nyssen's aberration in handling the ball from a corner kick — to take the points.

Dundee, newly promoted, are having a bad start, losing 2-0 at Dunfermline to goals from Andy Smith and George Shaw after a 3-0 opening-day defeat by Aberdeen. McCoist made his debut for his new club Kilmarnock at St Johnstone, but only as a substitute in the final three minutes of a scoreless draw.

Heart's yesterday managed a 0-0 draw at Dundee United, who had Steve Thompson sent off for a foul in the second half. "Coming here to Tannadice is always one of the toughest away games and it was predictable that there would be few chances," said Jim Jefferies, the Heart's manager. "I thought Neil McCann should have scored at the end and I thought Steve Fulton was magnificent."

Nationwide League

First Division

ALTHOUGH Barnley have spent all but one season outside the top flight, they are not making a spectacular fist of this term's return to familiar territory. Saturday's 3-1 defeat at Crewe being particularly hard to take for the player-manager John Hendrie.

The Scot, two matches in charge and still winless, laid into his defence after an afternoon which had seen Barnley chasing the game from the fifth minute, in a penalty. Smith knockdown brought them back on terms after the interval but two goals from Chris Lightfoot gave the Alex their first league win of the season. "We would have had to

score three goals to win last week and four to win today. What good is that?" said Hendrie. "The players are in the real world now, they are grown men and they've got to lift themselves."

Bolton's Colin Todd was also in critical mood despite seeing his team win 2-0 against newly promoted Grimsby at the Reebok, where second-half goals from Nathan Blake and Dean Holdsworth, with a penalty, secured the points.

"I was very disappointed," said the manager, who kept his players back for an hour after the game. "We got the win but I expected better."

Sunderland shared the spoils with Swindon, for whom Iffy Onora scored after four minutes. "We are fortunate that football matches last 90 minutes and not 45," said the manager Peter Reid after

Kevin Phillips had curled a right-foot shot into the far corner on the hour.

Oxford slipped 2-0 at home to Wolves, out of the top flight since May 1985 but now second in the Beeding table. Steve Bull scored a disputed goal in first-half injury-time, when the home goalkeeper dropped a cross under pressure from the striker, and Simon Osborn added a second 10 minutes from time.

"It was the sort of goal that gets disallowed sometimes but I think Steve Bull had his arms well down," said the Wolves manager Mark McGhee, who added that his much-sought midfielder Robbie Keane is "categorically not for sale".

Norwich won 2-0 at Stockport and go third, their goals being scored by Craig Bellamy and their former player Colin Woodthorpe, who put through his own goal.

Second Division

READING's manager Wotommy Burns has banned alcohol, junk food, mobile phones and dissent after their 4-1 away defeat by Bristol Rovers.

"I don't like to see the players chatting away on a mobile phone and ignoring their teammates when travelling to matches. That's a time for the players to be bonding together as a team and they can't do that if they are having private conversations."

"They are also banned from drinking alcohol when on club business, or eating junk food," he said. "We have installed a microwave on the team bus to cook pasta for them. They know it is for the good of their health."

Martin Williams, after only seven minutes, Barry Hayles, Jamie Cureton and Jason Roberts scored for Rovers, Michael Meaker replying.

Last season's relegated side Stoke City had lost to newly promoted Macclesfield 3-1 last week in the Worthington Cup but they retaliated by winning 2-0 at the Britannia Stadium.

The City manager Brian Little had all four of his summer signings in the starting line-up and the former Bolton Wanderers full-back Brian Small and former Sheffield United defender Chris Short were key factors in their first home game of the season. Dean Crowe and Tony Thorne scored in the first half to put the game out of reach of Macclesfield and send the Potteries side to the top of the table.

Colchester United had not won at the Racecourse Ground since October 1997 but their

4-2 win over Wrexham pushed them into second place in the table above Fulham, the title favourites, and Bournemouth.

Ian Rush again failed to find the target for Wrexham as the visitors scored two goals in each half, David Gregory completing the scoring with a 64th-minute penalty.

Bournemouth maintained their 100 per cent start to the season, coming from behind to defeat the Third Division champions, Notts County at Meadow Lane.

They conceded the first goal to a controversial penalty decision against the former West Ham player Mohammed Berthe for handling the ball inside the area. Three Bournemouth players, including Berthe, were booked for dissent, but he replied by equalising in the 51st minute and 12 minutes later Steven Robinson scored the winner.

Third Division

ROTHERHAM made it two wins out of two and went to the top of the table on goals scored thanks to a 4-1 win at Leyton Orient, a game that left Tommy Taylor lamenting "the most disappointing performance" since he took the manager's job at Brisbane Road.

Goals from Darren Garner and Lee Glover before half-time and Jamie Ingledow and Andy Roscoe after it saw the Millers home. Orient's Dean Smith, who had missed a penalty five minutes before the interval, gave the home side a glimpse of a chance when he made it 2-1 after 64 minutes.

"Rotherham in effect had five chances and scored four goals," Taylor said.

Southend, somewhat fortuitously, took all three points with a 2-1 home win against Shrewsbury and moved into second place.

They took the lead through Adrian Clarke after seven minutes but Austin Berkley equalised before half-time. David Whyte missed a penalty for Southend early in the second half but Shrewsbury went on to hit the bar twice and were beginning to look the likely winners until Alex Burns struck from the edge of the box in the dying seconds. "We did not play well and were fortunate to win," admitted Alvin Martin, Southend's manager.

Cambridge continued to show good form, a 2-1 win against Swansea taking them into fourth place, just behind Halifax. Martin Butler got both goals for United after Ryan Casey had given the visitors a sixth-minute lead.

18 APPOINTMENTS

The Guardian Monday August 17 1998

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مكتبة النور



Striking afresh on the Flat

Jamie Reid meets Mick Channon, former England footballer now in pursuit of new goals as a trainer

New game, new goals... Mick Channon, once of Southampton, now the Lambourn trainer, at Bath last week with his runner Danegold and rider Allan Eddery. Below: Celebrating League Cup victory in 1985

PHOTOGRAPHS: JEFF MORGAN, TOMMY HINDLEY, BOB THOMAS

FLAT racing can be a snooty business. Some trainers still react to even the simplest inquiry about their running plans as if an eminent heart surgeon had been asked to reveal the innermost secrets of his operating technique. Mick Channon does not play those sort of games.

The distinguished footballer, once of England and Southampton, is one of a few sportsmen to have reached the top in two separate careers. And he has brought to the more pompous enclaves of the Turf the same kind of down-to-earth humour and directness that characterised his time on the pitch and as a football television pundit.

"Racing belongs to the people," he says with feeling. "A lot of things have changed in the last 10 years and it's right for racing to change too. The public want to be more involved, they want to know more about the horses. Trainers can't keep up that old cloak-and-dagger stuff any more. And, as long as the credibility is there and we're doing what's right by the horses, I think that's the way it ought to be."

Channon's credibility is beyond dispute. There was a time 10 years ago when one or two of the well-stuffed "Thomas Pink" shirts who frequent Newmarket Heath might have been tempted to laugh up their tailored sleeves at the celebrity trainer with the broad vowels. They are not laughing now.

Channon admits he started out with "a staff of three and about the same number of horses". But there are now more than 100 inmates at his Kingsdown Stables in Upper Lambourn. He has trained three Royal Ascot winners and amassed more than £300,000 worth of win and place prize-money this season.

"We began by trying to make our name with speedy two-year-olds," he says. "But you're always looking to move up. Once you've won a listed race you want to win a Group race. And now I'd love to win

one of them £100,000 bonus races. And then a Classic.

"What's the point of horse racing if there are no fairy tales? If you're no good you'll fall back and deserve to. But you're always looking for the chance to progress. When I was a school kid I wanted to play for Southampton. Then, when I found I had a bit of talent, I wanted to play for England. Nothing's changed."

Channon's success at scaling the commanding heights of British racing can be measured from the fact that the Maktoum family have decided to use his talents. Sheikh Mohammed's younger brother Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum has six horses in training at Kingsdown. The best has been the brilliantly fast filly Bint Alayl who scorched home in the Queen

Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot in June. This daughter of Green Desert may reappear in the Lowther Stakes at York on Thursday (the meeting starts tomorrow) although she has an alternative engagement in the Prix Morny at Deauville 10 days later.

Sheikh Ahmed also owns the colt Joss Algharoud, "potentially a proper racehorse" according to Channon and on course for a crack at the Gimcrack Stakes on Wednesday. Does Channon feel any extra pressure at training for the Arabs? "No," he replies bluntly. "They just rang me up out of the blue last year and said they were going to send me some yearlings. They haven't been down but their man Anthony Stroud has been. I treat them just the same way I treat any other owner."

Yet there must be an uncomfortable thought in the back of Channon's mind that, if he does too well with the Maktoums' investments, they are quite likely to be whisked off to Dubai during the winter and brought back into training under the Godolphin banner next spring.

Channon smiles. "The only thing wrong with this game," he says, "is the competition. You've got to have the horses. So when you get good horses you just try and kick on and win with them. You'd be pretty daft not to."

Channon may be a naturalist, too, and does not just sit back and wait for the big-match days. During the high summer months the racing fixture list resembles a congested railway timetable. There seem to be trains, big and small, arriving and departing every afternoon and evening throughout the week. Channon's horses stop at every station.

Last Tuesday the main destination was Bath, the cheerfully third division track high on Lansdowne Hill some two-and-a-half miles outside the

city. And beyond the white painted running rails down the back straight the view was of newly harvested cornfields, rolling hills and a clear blue sky.

Channon was in his element. Disdaining the traditional panama or brown trilby hat he was to be found in the modest Owners' and Trainers' bar, watching his runners up at Ayr on the television and enjoying the company of a group of friends and patrons known as the Piccolo Boys. These mainly Bristolian businessmen owned the sprinter Piccolo, which Channon prepared to win the King's Stand Stakes at Ascot in 1985.

"That was one of the best days of my life," says the trainer. "The owners are all a bunch of boogymen. They kept pouring alcohol down my throat all night. They had to prise my mouth open to do it, of course. I don't know how I'll ever forgive them."

Channon's enthusiasm for the pungent flavour of a small West Country track like Bath is every bit as genuine as any excitement he may be feeling about the potential rewards to the owners at Deauville and York.

"British racing has got the best atmosphere anywhere in the world," he believes.

And that's not just down to the horses or the owners, trainers and jockeys. It's due to everyone from the bloke who drives the horse transporter to the men and women behind the bars and the racecourse bookies. But what you see when you get to the course, that's the Big Show. An awful lot of people have worked their butts off to produce that."

Channon's own working day begins at half-past-five on summer mornings. "It's been great up there on the Downs these last few weeks. A little bit cool and misty first thing but grand to be alive."

Channon pushes himself and his staff hard. He will be flying up to York every day in the helicopter of his friend and fellow trainer Richard Hannon. But he will be back in the yard each evening. His language can be famously colourful and he does not

spare his stable lads or girls nor his jockeys if he thinks they are making "a complete bollocks" of their tasks.

He may be a good if tough motivator of people but where does he get the skill and inspiration to train nervous thoroughbred horses to run and run fast? "There are no secrets really," he insists. "It's just hard bloody work. But just what's worth doing in life that doesn't involve hard work? Fitness is important obviously. But I approach training in the same way I'd try to get a team fit to play football. The more you ask, the more you get."

And does Channon see any training potential among the current ranks of Premiership stars? That really makes him laugh. "They're getting too much bloody money. They're not going to swap that racket for horse racing."

There were one or two nervous looking trainers at Bath, men whose faces betrayed careers hovering perilously close to racing's equivalent of the relegation zone. Channon was not one of them. He did not get a winner at the meeting but he did have a 4-1 success at Ayr and tipped it too. The Piccolo Boys filled their boots. As usual Mick Channon was enjoying himself.



One career to another

Football
1963-1977 Southampton
232 league goals, 157 goals
1977-1979 Manchester City
1979-1982 Aston Villa
1982-1984 Newcastle
1984-1986 Tottenham
1986-1988 Tottenham
1988-1990 Tottenham
1990-1992 Tottenham
1992-1994 Tottenham
1994-1996 Tottenham
1996-1998 Tottenham



Training
First licence 1990
(Assistant to John Baker and
Ken Cunningham-Brown)
Number of horses
Flat 108, jumpers 4
Best horses trained
Piccolo, Rohita, Great Deeds,
Micheal, Flying Squaw
Major races won
Nunthorpe Stakes, Group 1
(Piccolo, York 1994)
King's Stand Stakes
(Piccolo, Ascot 1985)
Moet and Chandon Rannan,
Group 2 (Micheal, Baden-
Baden 1996)
Van Geste Criterion Stakes
(Micheal, Newmarket 1988)
Queen Mary Stakes, Group 3
(Bint Alayl, Ascot 1998)
Favourite course Sandown

Athletics

Jackson runs free at his final hurdles

Duncan Mackay on an athlete putting himself first for Budapest this week

A GOLD medal in the 110 metres hurdles at the European Championships starting in Budapest tomorrow would see Colin Jackson reunited with his former business partner and friend Linford Christie — in the record books at least.

The Welshman would become only the second British athlete, after Christie in the 100m, to win three European titles in the same event following triumphs in Split (1990) and Helsinki (1994). For nine years the pair were inseparable. They roomed together, trained together and, in 1992, set up Nuff Respect, the management company representing many of Britain's top young athletes.

It all ended at the World Championships in Athens last year when Jackson quit Nuff Respect. Rumours continue around the circuit that the split was not amicable.

"There was never a blazing row between me and Linford," says Jackson. "There never has been since we were introduced and I took the mickey about him being beaten in the 100 by Elliot Bunney, who was a junior."

"It's just been hard for Linford to come to terms with me leaving. He couldn't understand why I wanted to be on my own. Like a marriage ending for no apparent reason."

"He kept asking why and perhaps I wasn't very good at giving an answer. So finally Linford said, 'I still don't understand. I still want you to know that I'll always be there for you.'"

Jackson insists there was nothing more behind his decision than the desire to become a full-time athlete again. "I needed a break from all the responsibilities for others that I took on at Nuff Respect," he says.

Perhaps the low-down on the split will be revealed in a television comedy script Jackson is writing with his sister Suzanne, an actress who appeared in *Brookside* and *Tiger Bay*.

"It's along the lines of Jerry Maguire about agents acting for athletes, footballers, actors, singers," he says. "I'm using very close-to-the-knuckle incidents. The people involved will recognise the situations."

Athletically, at least, Christie must accept Jackson made the right decision. A year ago most people believed they were witnessing the dying embers of a brilliant career, the peak of which was in 1993 when he won the World Championship in Stuttgart in 12.91sec — still the world record.

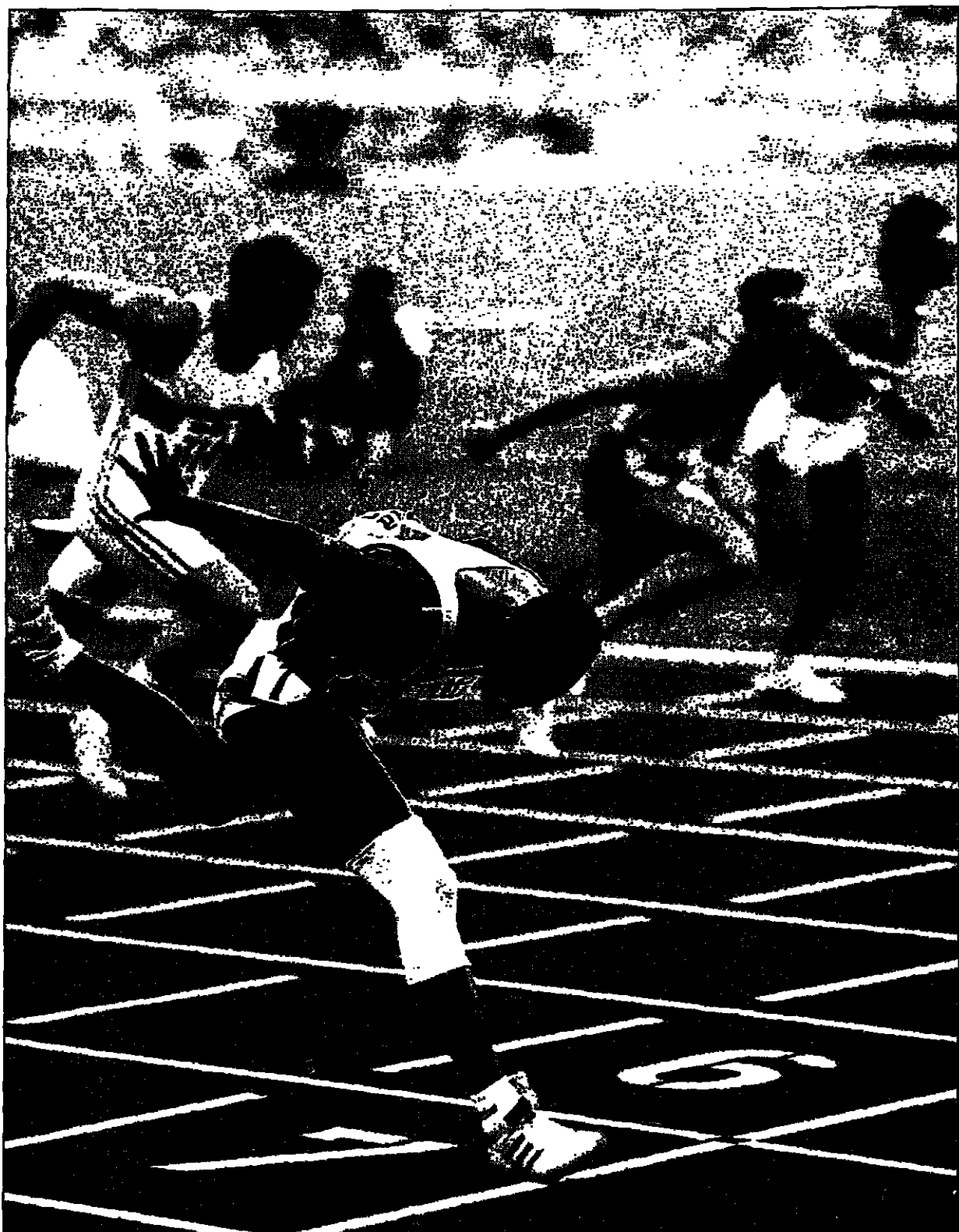
A year later Jackson retained his European and Commonwealth titles and went through the season unbeaten. Then he had a bewildering decline and for two years struggled against injury and lack of motivation.

He pulled himself out of the slump only after leaving Nuff Respect and rejoining Arnold, winning a silver medal in Athens. In Budapest history beckons. A Jackson defeat would be among the biggest shocks in the championships' history; he has set the 12 fastest times in Europe this season, including his 13.07sec at Nuremberg which tops the rankings.

"I feel like I'm 21 again," he says. "I don't think I have run better in my whole career. Even in 1993 I was not as strong physically or mentally as now."

Much credit must go to Arnold, the former performance director of British Athletics. Jackson has moved from Cardiff to work with him at Bath University. He says: "After Athens Malcolm wrote me a letter saying what a hell of a performance it had been and how I could break the world record in 1998."

Jackson is so determined to achieve his hurdling goals — he will also be chasing a third consecutive Commonwealth title next month — that he has shelved plans to long jump. Instead, at 31, he is preparing for his fourth tilt at Olympic glory at Sydney 2000. His best performance so far was his debut in Seoul in 1988, when he won the silver medal. It would be a travesty if such an athlete was to end his career without an Olympic gold.



Big dipper... Jackson, seeking a third title in Budapest, wins the European 110 metres hurdles at Split in 1990. **BOB MARTIN**

But for now the born-again hurdler prefers to savour the moment. "It is so fantastic when people say it's good to see me back. It's great for my training group to see me at the top again and not know me as Colin Jackson, the guy who used to be good."

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Cricket

County Championship: Gloucestershire v Kent

Fever pitch fades through Windows

David Foot at Nail Road

By the time the Bristol track had turned from intermittent light to puscycat and the visit of the pitch inspector Harry Brind receded into a meaningless monitoring exercise the ultimate target of 436 for Kent had not looked completely inescapable.

There was nothing at all for the bowlers yesterday. Gloucestershire's response at the crease was a second-innings total of 436, an unbeaten 436, as if they were taking heed of the critical words from their coach John Bracewell and the batting frailties that have repeatedly dogged them this summer.

A win will put Gloucestershire back in a position to challenge for honours over the final weeks of the summer. Yet they have been runners-up six times in the championship without a glimmer of silverware to show for it.

Here the best batting, full of substance and intent, came from Mark Alleyne and Matt Windows. The fourth-wicket stand yielded 185 runs, mostly trouble-free. Alleyne, hiding a calf injury which meant he could not bowl later, went first, caught at the wicket off the new ball. By now he was avidly searching for more runs and edged as he stretched for an off-drive. He had given no chances; the innings was positive and assiduous.

Windows reached his third championship hundred of the season with a sweet cover drive off Martin McCague before also going to a catch by Steve Marsh soon after lunch.

Occasionally Windows appeared at risk with the square drive and cut that have proved consistently profitable to him. He might have gone twice in that area, once on 45 to Ben Phillips off Matthew Fleming. But it was a performance of much merit from the stocky batsman.

Kent's Julian Thompson suddenly curbed the Gloucestershire rout, dismissing Bobby Dawson, Martin Bell and Jack Russell in rapid succession, though by then the total was a formidable one.

Both Mike Smith and Courtney Walsh hit sizes in a last-wicket stand that compounded Kent's frustration. It had now become a matter of bowling Kent out, initially with few signs of encouragement as Ed Smith and David Fulton discovered the increasingly charitable nature of the pitch.

Then both openers disappeared. Fulton, looking typically unruffled at first, was taken at second slip while Smith, one short of his 50, was caught at the wicket as Jon Lewis found a semblance of unexpected movement.

It was Russell's 800th dismissal for Gloucestershire. Kent ended on 83 for two, still 353 short and doubtless hoping for a four-five innings from Carl Hooper.

Yorkshire v Lancashire

Hutchison swing forces Crawley into rearguard

Matthew Goldart at Headingley

THE third day of the 232nd Roses match turned into a contest between John Crawley's batting class and some venomous left-arm swing by Yorkshire's Paul Hogg.

In the end Crawley won it but not before Hutchison had torn out four of his colleagues in the space of 25 balls at the start of Lancashire's second innings. Hutchison's 100th in first-class cricket in a career which began only three years ago and which has included one season missed through a stress fracture of the lower leg.

Remember, Yorkshire had been mercilessly flogged on the first day here as Lancashire scored 455, an unheard-of rate of progress in this fixture. But Yorkshire responded with determination to limit their first-innings deficit to 27, building on David Byas's fourth century on this ground this season through a patient 67 not out by Richard Blakey, an aggressive 50 by the left-hander Gavin Hamilton and a composed 41 from James Middlebrook.

Lancashire had other worries with their captain, Wainman Akram, having taken little part over the first three days because of a foot injury and illness, though he expects to be bowling again today. His contribution probably holds the key to the outcome. Lancashire have also, of course, lost Ian Austin, called up by England. Though his replacement Richard Green was allowed to bowl, he was ineffective, leaving the spinners Gary Yates and Gary Keedy with the bulk of the work.

A dry pitch offered some turn but there is also uneven bounce for any seamer willing to exploit it and Hutchison did just that with a burst of four wickets for two runs in a rapid opening spell which sent Lancashire plunging to 22 for four in their second innings. Yorkshire's pitch was that not enough happened at the other end.

Nathan Wood edged an out-swinger to the wicketkeeper Blakey, Fairbrother nicked his first ball, a lifter, to third slip and Andy Flintoff once again let ambition get the better of him when he drove rashly outside off-stump to be well taken at second slip by Byas.

When Graham Lloyd edged a ball of low bounce into a middle stump just after tea, Lancashire were in turmoil but Crawley and Warren Hegg fashioned a late recovery and at the close they had added an unbroken 87 to stretch Lancashire's lead to 136. But Hutchison's dramatic intervention has created the scope for an intriguing final day.

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Hansen curses and kicks her heels

Duncan Mackay in Budapest

ASHA HANSEN, the world record holder for the triple jump, was yesterday forced to withdraw from the European Championships which start here tomorrow after finally conceding she would not recover from a heel injury in time.

The 28-year-old Bahamian athlete said the problem was breaking the world indoor record at the European Indoor Championships in Valencia in February and has not competed since because doctors took several months to diagnose the injury.

Her fellow triple jumper Michelle Griffith was also forced to pull out at the last minute through injury, bringing the total who have withdrawn from the women's team to five. Hansen and Griffith are joined on the casualty list by the shot putter Judy Oakes, and the long jumper Jo Wise and 800 metre runner Tanya Blake.

The withdrawal of Hansen is a real blow. She finished fourth in the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 and was fifth in last year's World Championships in Athens. If fit she would have been one of the favourites.

Paula Radcliffe's task in going for her first championship medal on the track was made harder yesterday when it was confirmed that Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan will make her debut over 10,000 metres, as well as competing over 5,000m, the distance at which she won the world title in 1995.

It sets up an intriguing 25-lap battle against Portugal's Olympic and European champion Fernanda Ribeiro and Radcliffe, Bedford's five-mile world record holder on the road.

O'Sullivan does not have a 10,000m qualifying time but the organisers have permitted her to run because no other Irishwoman is in the field. The timetable allows O'Sullivan, winner of the last ever European 3,000m title in 1994, to race the 10,000m on Wednesday and the 5,000m heats two days later, 48 hours before the final. Though demanding, the programme will be easier than when she won her two cross-country titles in Marrakech earlier this year when the classic and short course races were staged on successive days.

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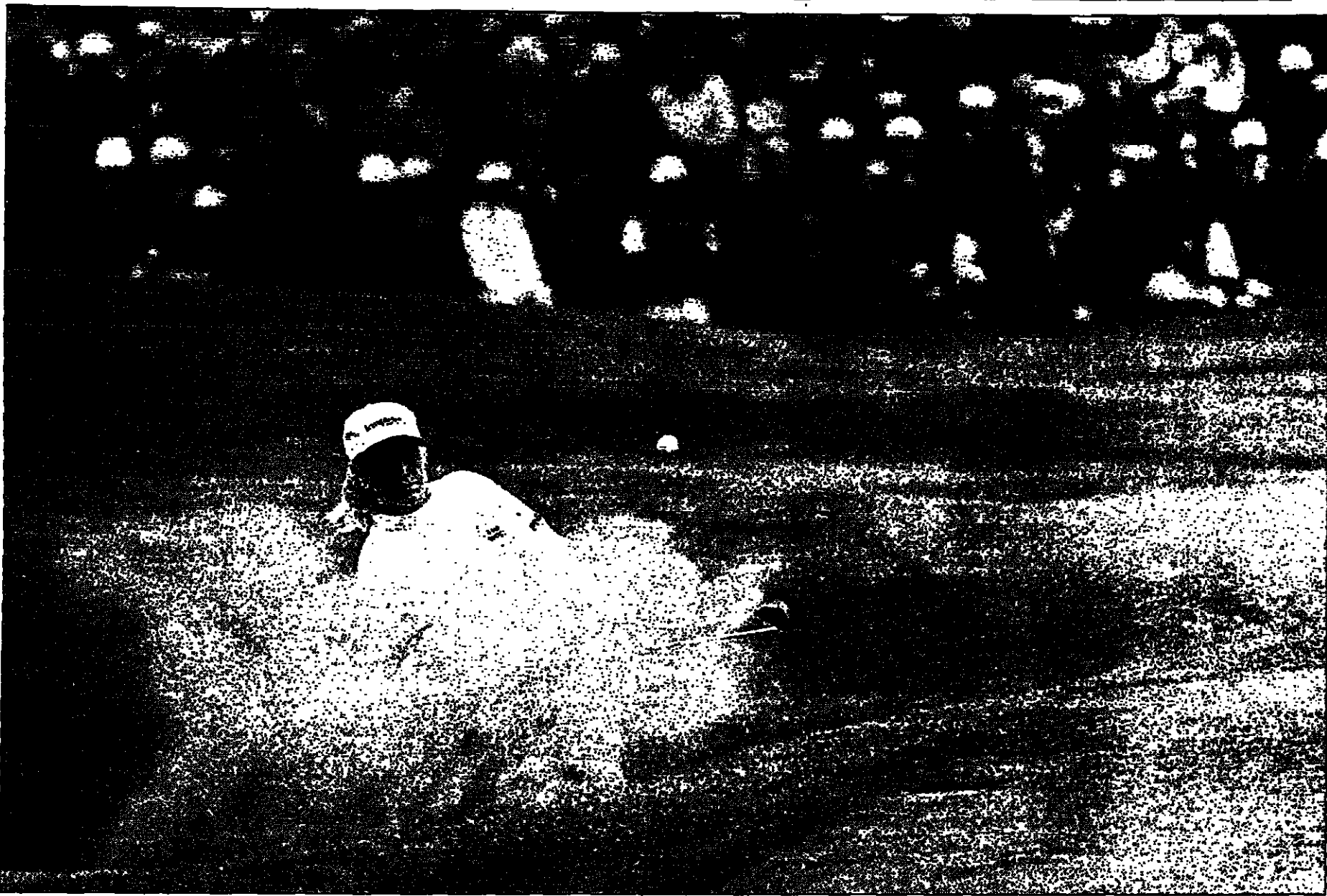
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Breaking out... Janice Moodie blasts from a bunker on the 18th hole at Royal Lytham on her way to fourth place in the British Open

PHOTOGRAPH: BARRY GREENWOOD

Montgomerie in major dismay

Mike Selvey in Seattle sees the leading Britons reduced to bit parts as the USPGA Championship comes to its denouement

MAKE a graph of Colin Montgomerie's mood swings and it would resemble an Alpine stage of the Tour de France. Here is a fellow who more than almost any other top player wears his heart firmly on his sleeve. When he plays well, he is perky as a parrot. But when it goes wrong, he hurts and he is not shy about letting everyone know.

It went wrong on Saturday. Still without the major championship that his talent demands, but in second place after two rounds, he chopped and hacked his way to a third-round 77, 10 shots poorer than his second round and only a couple of strokes from being the worst of the day.

It dropped him to 35th place, saying goodbye to his chances for another year in the process. "What can I say?" he said afterwards with

a shrug, and the answer, of course, is very little.

Montgomerie's disaster left him at four over par for the championship, meaning an early start, and in pouring rain at that. Things were not much better on the front nine yesterday either, as he dropped four more shots, three of them in the first four holes, to be out in 39. He retrieved shots at the 10th and par-five 11th before bogeying the 14th.

Nick Faldo was grinding his way happily on to a 73. He is in a peculiar mood at the present, declaring himself delighted with his week's work although his only birdies came at the 10th in the first round and the fourth in the second: 50 holes without a birdie and still he is happy.

"Eureka," he had declared as he left the course on Friday. "I'm chuffed. I really think I've hit on something."

It would be easy to think he had just discovered penicillin. Instead it is his putting stroke that he believes has started to return to its former glory. "Unchaining myself from putting is helping my whole game," he said.

But neither they, nor Andrew Coltart, 74 yesterday, were the leading Britons after three rounds. That honour — remarkably given his lack of preparation — went to Ian Woosnam, who made the cut only by virtue of a birdie on the final second-round hole and had not bogeyed two of the final three holes on Saturday, would have claimed a course-record 65 and still been in with an outside chance of the title.

The real tournament had barely started, however. If the PGA Championship has a history of producing first-time winners of major titles — 12 of the last 13 in fact, a se-

quence broken only by Nick Price in 1994 — then an American, Steve Stricker, and a Filipino, Vijay Singh, began their final rounds at noon yesterday as firm favourites to lift the Wanamaker Trophy.

Stricker's bogey-free round of 66 on Saturday and one of 67 from Singh made them joint leaders at seven under par. Singh, the tour's most fabled practicer, has long been regarded as a potential winner and so had Stricker in 1996, when he finished fourth in the money list. But he



Woosnam... leading Briton

plummeted 126 places last year and, to top it, made his regular caddy pregnant — although, as it was his wife, he can be forgiven.

Stricker is something of a farm horse, having come into the championship on the back of four top-10 finishes in his last five events.

Singh and Stricker were four shots ahead of the defending champion Davis Love III, looking to become the first player in 61 years to win this title back-to-back. Steve Elkington, who won the title three years ago, and Billy Mayfair, who is in contention thanks to a second successive 67 on Saturday. One shot further back, though, lurked a group of four players including Tiger Woods, by no means at his best, and Mark O'Meara, winner of both the Masters and the Open already this year.

None of these players, nor indeed anyone who began the day under par — and that includes Greg Kraft who did break the course record set by Woods on the first day with a

round of 65 on Saturday — could be discounted. Yet, despite Phil Mickelson getting birdies on three of the last four holes yesterday, it seemed that if anyone was to catch the front runners, they would have to do so before this ferocious finish to an excruciatingly difficult course.

The 18th, in particular, converted from a par-five to a 495-yard par-four uphill with a left-hand dog-leg and the one that will be used as the first extra hole should it be required, has become the most difficult hole on the course, with only 13 birdies in three rounds and as many bogeys or worse as pars.

Warren Bennett, 26, from Watford won the Russian Open, his fifth Challenge Tour title of the year and his fourth in six weeks. Chris Williams, born in Liverpool but who moved to South Africa when he was four, won the Malaysian Masters at the fourth play-off hole in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, when his 20-foot putt was enough to beat Zaw Moe.

Golf

Blues for Moodie as unknown wins crown

David Davies sees great British hope let down by putting at Lytham St Annes

SHERRI Steinhauer took 81 shots in the opening round of the Women's British Open here on Thursday, and for three days had a totally anonymous tournament.

Yesterday, though, this largely unknown American made up for that with a 12-shot improvement on her first effort, and her three-under-par 69, for a four-over-par total of 292, made her one of the more surprising winners.

It was a day when Sherri proved to be rather more potent than Brandie Burton, the better-known American who shared the runners-up spot with Sophie Gustafson of Sweden, both of them being one behind Steinhauer, while the overnight leader and great hope of British golf, Janice Moodie, had the blues on the greens.

Six times from inside seven feet Moodie missed important putts, the first three being crucial to the overall result. At the 3rd and 4th, six-footers slid past on the left to squander her lead, and at the 6th, over-correcting, she pushed one of the same length an inch right of the hole.

That last one was the key. Had it gone in, it might have restored her confidence with the putter; instead she remained tentative throughout on the greens and lost a tournament in which she probably played more good shots through the green than any other competitor.

It is said, probably accurately, that it is necessary to lose a championship before you can win one, and although this week's event is not a major in American eyes it is probably the one the Europeans want to win most. If Moodie reacts positively to her final 75 she should certainly go on to win "proper" majors.

She confessed to having been nervous at the start of the day. "My legs were like jelly on the first tee," she said. But these were the nerves of anticipation, not trepidation, and "by the

time we'd got to the 2nd I was pretty strong".

The Glasgow woman has been a professional for only 12 months — this was her first pro event last year — and has only once since then been among the leaders going out for the final round.

"I'm still learning," she said. "If you'd offered me fourth place in the British Open before the tournament started I'd have grabbed your hand off. But that changed, of course, before the final round."

Fourth, though, is what she had to settle for, after more missed putts on the back nine. The worst of these was from only two feet at the 14th.

The course was set up by the Ladies' Golf Union secretary Julie Hall, who, as Joanne Morley said after a 77, is "half the Christmas card list" of many of the players. It was only marginally easier than it is for a men's Open, and this year's great growing conditions meant that the rough was probably too tough.

But of course if you do not go in there are no problems, and Steinhauer played some remarkably consistent golf. She had arrived in Lytham the Sunday before the tournament and spent that day walking the course, picking out targets at which to aim.

It did not work on the first day because everything was obliterated by the foul weather, but her three remaining rounds were played in five under par.

She confessed afterwards that she briefly lost the faith. "After that 81," she said, "I dreamed that I was at the travel agency arranging my flights home. But when I woke up, I didn't go." Instead she rearranged her ambitions, to concentrate on making the cut and, when she had done that, to try to get into the top 10.

She won the tournament with a birdie at the last. A fine drive left her with 156 yards to go in a strong crosswind and she elected to use a six-iron, pitching the ball well short of the pin and running it up. She succeeded brilliantly, the ball trickling to seven feet short of the hole. The putt was weakly struck but just reached the rim of the hole and fell in.

Rugby League

Super League: Wigan 44 Sheffield 6

Paul puts Eagles to flight

Andy Wilson

IN THE build-up to Sheffield's stunning victory over Wigan in the Challenge Cup final in May the Eagles' coach John Kear conceded that the thoroughbreds of the British game would probably beat his team of battlers nine times out of 10.

Sheffield played much better yesterday than they had done in a 36-8 defeat at the Don Valley stadium seven days after Wembley but were still comfortably second best. Two down, seven to go.

The Eagles actually led 6-0 through a Darren Turner try until the game turned on two contrasting incidents midway through the first half. First Darren Shaw, their Australian forward, was sin-binned for holding down in a tackle. Paul Broadbent, the Sheffield captain, had just been warned for a similar offence but the decision still seemed terribly harsh.

Within two minutes Wigan were level after one of the best individual tries of the season from Henry Paul, who swivelled through the first

line of defence and stepped inside the cover.

The gifted New Zealander has not always seen eye to eye with the Wigan coach John Monie this season but Greg Florino, the Australian who has been signed to replace him next year, will have a mighty tough act to follow.

Shaw was still in the sin-bin, and Paul involved again, when Wigan went ahead four minutes later. But this time Sheffield had only themselves to blame as Waisale Sotavalu, their Fijian full-back who was otherwise impressive, failed to catch a high Andy Farrell kick. From the resulting pressure Paul and Gary Connolly handled clinically for Kris Radlinski to score.

Any thoughts of a second-half Sheffield fight-back were crushed by a third Wigan try within seven minutes of the restart, when Lee Gilmour made the break for Farrell to score. Danny Moore added a fourth after a searing break from Connolly and wonderful support play from Paul Johnson and Tony Smith, and there were further touchdowns for Steve Holgate.

Simon Haughton and a second for Paul.

But by then the result had long been decided, and the fans were more concerned with the inflatable sheep which amused them throughout the afternoon.

"The second half was as good as we've played all year," said Monie afterwards. "Henry Paul was outstanding, both as a team No. 6 as well as the individual brilliance that we know he has."

The defeat leaves Sheffield three points adrift of the fifth play-off position but Kear agreed with Monie's observation that, if they do miss out, it will be the points they dropped in the immediate aftermath of Wembley which prove crucial.

"We are disappointed because in the second half we weren't competitive," Kear said. "We lost it 32-0 and we were lucky to get null."

Wigan Radlinski; Bell, Connolly, Moore, Robinson; Paul, Smith, O'Connor, McCann, Mearns, Cassidy, Hughes, Farrell, Radlinski; P. Johnson, Gilmour, Holgate, Clark.

Sheffield Sotavalu; Shaw, Morgan, Taylor, Eddie Watson, Adam, Broadbent, Turner, Loughton, Carr, Shaw, Doyle, Sotavalu; Lewis, Vasilakopoulos, Radlinski.

Referee: S. Gerson (St Helens).

Gregory on carpet over unpaid fine

Andy Wilson

ANDY GREGORY is again in trouble with the game's authorities. The Salford coach has been summoned to Rugby Football League headquarters on August 25 for failing to pay a £1,000 fine imposed for abusing a referee this season.

He may also have to explain a fresh case of alleged abusive language at last Sunday's 40-6 defeat at home to Leeds in the light of the referee Karl Kirkpatrick's report to the referees' controller, Geoff Berry, that he was abused by Gregory as he left the pitch at half-time.

Gregory was suspended from the touchline for the rest of this season after he was found guilty of abusing the referee Steve Ganson during Salford's home defeat by Sheffield in May.

Yesterday Salford managed to scrape a 16-12 win at the bottom club Huddersfield. The result left the former St Helens scrum-half

Bobbie Goulding fuming when the final whistle was blown with Adrian Belle having played the ball in an attacking position five metres out.

Goulding, making his Huddersfield debut, hurried the ball to the ground at the decision as the Giants argued that the ball was already in play and the match should have continued until the next stoppage. Instead Salford celebrated only their second win in 12 matches with the help of two tries from Scott Naylor.

Goulding said: "I thought he'd played the ball but the referee blew up and we've just got to get on with it. I had the ball in my hands and, though we had about a six-man overlap, I wasn't going to pass it and I could've strolled in."

Graeme Bradley, Bradford's 34-year-old Australian captain, has announced that he is to retire at the end of the season.

Castleford have signed Aaron Raper, the younger brother of their coach Stuart, for the 1999 season.

Rugby Union

Tri-Nations Championship: South Africa 24 New Zealand 23

Dalton's sting in the tail

Andy Colquhoun in Durban

NEW ZEALAND's rugby gloom deepened on Saturday when they surrendered an 18-point lead to lose to South Africa, their fourth defeat in succession and their worst run since they lost six consecutive Tests in 1949.

The All Blacks fully deserved their 23-6 lead going into the final quarter and there seemed little chance of a lacklustre Springbok side escaping their fate.

But a typical darting break and try by the scrum-half Josie van der Westhuizen in the 68th minute, and a further try by the replacement flanker Bobby Skinstad four minutes later, closed the gap to four points as the previously ruthless All Black defence went to sleep.

With the match in stoppage time, the Springboks opted to kick a penalty to the corner and from the resulting line-out the hooker James Dalton was carried over by his pack for the winning try.

The New Zealand coach John Hart remained upbeat

in defeat. "My faith in the All Blacks has never wavered. I'm proud to be associated with them," he said. "Our performance tonight proved we are a great side. We went out to attack the Springboks and I thought we outscored them consistently."

"When our No. 8 Istaito Maka was taken out of the game it was a huge blow to us. We lost a lot of presence. We are hugely disappointed but we have made a lot of progress from a few weeks ago."

Gary Teichmann, the Springbok captain, said: "It was a pretty big effort from us to win. It was sparked off by Josie's try. We needed some one to take the initiative. We played superb rugby in the last 15 minutes and it showed the character of the side."

The wing Stefan Terblanche had barged through the tackle of the full-back Christian Cullen for his seventh try in eight internationals to put South Africa 5-0 ahead in the third minute. However, a 40-metre break by Jonah Lomu set up the first All Black try for the scrum-half Justin Marshall before Maka powered through weak tackling to leave the way

clear for the No. 8 and captain Taine Randell's ninth Test try.

Andrew Mehrtens converted the two tries and also kicked three penalties on either side of half-time against a Springbok side diminished by indecision and mistakes. Yet South Africa finally came good for their 13th successive victory whereas New Zealand will try to overcome their barren patch against Australia in a fortnight's time.

South Africa lead the Tri-Nations table by three points from Australia, who can still claim the title if they win the final match of the series against the Springboks in Johannesburg on Saturday.

SCORES: South Africa: Tries Terblanche, Van der Westhuizen, Skinstad, Dalton. Conversion: Montgomery. 2. New Zealand: Tries Marshall, Randell. Conversion: Mearns. 2. Penalties: Mearns. 5.

SOUTH AFRICA: Montgomery; Terblanche, Skinstad, Mearns, Muller, Rossouw, Hanblat, Van der Westhuizen, Kinnison, Dalton, Garvey (Le Roux). 50. One (Skinstad, b.), Andrew (Cullen, 71), Erasmus (Allan, 64), Venter, Schreiner (65).

NEW ZEALAND: Cullen; Wilson, Clark (Barrington, 83), Mayrhofer, Lomu; Mearns, Marshall, Post, Oliver, Brown, Willie, Brooke, Randell (capt), Kronfeld, Mearns (62), 50.

Referee: P. Marshall (Australia).

— Reader

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Racing

Shuttle service to Japan resumes

Graham Rock

LIGHTNING might not be expected to strike twice in the same place, but following the first European success for a Japanese-trained horse when Seeking The Pearl won at Deauville eight days ago, Taiki Shuttle repeated its victory in the Group 1 Prix Jacques Le Marois over the same course yesterday.

Significantly superior to Seeking The Pearl, Taiki Shuttle is the champion miler of Japan, having won nine of his 10 races and £2.26 million. With nothing left to prove at home, he was sent to the stables of Tony Clout, who trains at Lamorlaye, about an hour from Paris.

Cape Cross soon led the Marois runners at a pedestrian pace for Godolphin, and held the call until inside the final furlong. Among Men and Michael Kinane challenged hard, having been switched wide for a run, but Taiki Shuttle and Yukio Okabe were down to beat Among Men by half a length, with Cape Cross a short head behind.

The Taiki Farms Syndicate, who own the winner, will consult trainer Kazuo Fujisawa, but a crack at the Prix du Moulin, followed by the Breeders' Cup Mile, seems a likely programme; the American-bred colt would then be retired to stud in Japan. "He's a very clever horse, strong in mind and body," said Yushiki Akazawa, one of the successful owners.

Connections of Taiki Shuttle, who was ante-post favourite at around 5-2 with bookmakers in Britain, were confident of victory. Obviously unaware of the weakness of the French Pari-Mutuel, one punter placed £200,000 on the winner, unbalanced the pool, and Taiki Shuttle was returned at 3-10.

Running Stag, partnered by Ray Cochrane, gave Philip Mitchell one of his most important victories when beating Garuda by three lengths, with Lord Of Men half a length away, in the Prix Gontaut-Biron. The winner is regarded as a specialist on all-weather surfaces and this was

his first victory on turf. Mitchell might send Running Stag to Baden-Baden later in the month, but if that race comes too soon there are alternatives on the dirt at Belmont Park, New York.

Central Park became the second successful British rider of the day when landing the BMW Europachampion in Germany.

Willie Ryan might be only second jockey to Henry Cecil's stable, but he rode a race Kieren Fallon would have been proud of to land the Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury on Saturday. On Sir Michael Stoute's Multicoloured, he set a modest gallop, gradually quickened the pace, and turned for home with a lead of eight lengths.

He sat still as a statue for the first half of the straight and the field closed, but no sooner had Pat Eddery begun to appear confident that the 6-4 favourite, Silver Patriarch, could pick up Multicoloured, than Ryan kicked again and quickly turned his lead from one length to three. Although Silver Patriarch closed in the final 200 yards, he crossed the line three-quarters of a length down.

Ryan, who had ridden Benny The Dip to beat Silver Patriarch and Eddery a short head in the Derby last year, praised the winner's lead, Wayne Goldborough. "He told me all about the horse, to let him do the hard work. The moment I changed my hands my horse lengthened well."

Xaar failed by three-quarters of a length to peg back the progressive Kabool at Deauville on Saturday, but last season's champion two-year-old looked a shade underwhelmed. "We had planned to come wide, but he was boxed in," said Andre Fabre.

One hyped horse who began to justify his reputation as Second Empire, who beat Centre Stalls impressively at the Curragh, Aidan O'Brien's winner has some prestigious entries, including the Prix du Moulin, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes and the Breeders' Cup Mile. Doubtless, the champion trainer of Ireland will be consulting his Japanese form book before deciding on Second Empire's next race.



High-flyer... Tony Garth wins the Flying Fillies' Stakes at Pontefract on the grey Zelanda. PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE SHELTON

Top Cees on song over shorter trip

Ron Cox

TOP CEES played to a capacity crowd of over 19,000 at Pontefract yesterday when racing to a game success in the 12 furlongs 49's Handicap.

Dropped 4lb in the ratings after trainer Lynda Ramsden's husband, Jack,

could never win off a mark of 100, the dual Chester Cup winner beat Brave Noble over a trip well short of his best. But Ramsden is pessimistic about the Cesarewitch, which has been one of the eight-year-old's main targets this season.

"He will probably go up to 99 now and I don't think he can win a Cesarewitch off that mark. There is a

two and a quarter miles race back at Pontefract in a few weeks though I don't know if he would get the trip here."

Tony Garth, one of the unsung backroom boys, gained his biggest success when Zelanda put up an impressive performance in the Flying Fillies' Stakes. She had her rivals in trouble at halfway and saw

out the testing six furlongs well to beat Bayleaf.

Garth, 28, works for winning trainer John Gosden and explained: "I joined the stable about two-and-a-half years ago and Mr Gosden said he would give me rides whenever he could. I am very grateful to him for giving me the chance on Zelanda. She's the fastest I have ridden."

Windor Jackpot card with form guide

2.00	TOP FORM
2.00 Tomacornwell	Pegazur (nb)
2.30 First Master	Grey Princess
3.00	Dangerous Dancer (nb)
4.00	Muskeleuse
4.30	

Figure-eight track of 13m, though only right-hand turns occur in races up to 1m70yds. Virtually straight 1/2 & 3/4 furlongs.
Going: Good to firm. • Donors: bookies. • Top form rated.
Draw: Middle to high numbers favoured over 5 & 6.
Seven day winners: 2.00 Jacobus Silver; 3.00 Etrick; 4.30 Zanta. Visited: 4.00 First Legend.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

2.00	TOP FORM
2.00 Tomacornwell	Pegazur (nb)
2.30 First Master	Grey Princess
3.00	Dangerous Dancer (nb)
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Hamilton runners and riders

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Tennis

Sampras acts tough

Richard Jago in Cincinnati

HAD Pete Sampras met Kimberley Williams a few years ago he might not have acquired that notorious label "boring". Chest-thumping salutes to the actress followed his reigning Wimbledon title last year, and yesterday he hurled passionate piston-punches through the air and whirled an arm cyclonically after reaching the final of the ATP Championships here.

Williams's presence often gives Sampras a surprising release from his hand-dog look. It occasionally lights a flicker of the fire of rivalry, but he admits it is good for the game. Yesterday it was also important for his survival, which was sometimes in doubt against the very surprising Magnus Larsson.

Sampras won the semi-final 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 but there were moments when it seemed he might lose again to the tall, bearded Swede who had won their past three encounters. Larsson hit so ferociously hard with his serve and his forehand that he threatened to puncture both the balls and the morale of his famous opponent.

Sampras's serve was broken for the first time in the tournament by a roaring return of serve at the start of the second set, something Larsson had been close to achieving in the fourth game of the first set. The turning-point came in the third game of the third set when the Swede earned a break-back

point, only for Sampras to advance to 3-0 with two successive aces.

The defending champion served 20 altogether, and beamingly pronounced himself intent on achieving a record for the tour by finishing No. 1 for the sixth year running. The American might also feel himself able to answer those critics who hurt him by suggesting that he would rather have his heart broken than his serve broken. Sampras's opponent in last night's final was Pat Rafter, who has few problems with his image but increasingly some with his build-up to the defence of his US Open title. The Australian's 7-5, 6-0 semi-final win over Yevgeny Kafelnikov was his ninth win in a row, the longest winning run of his career.

Although that will act as a cushion against the possible loss of points at Flushing Meadows next month, it has created a dilemma as well as discomfort to his overworked body. "I am starting to get tired," he admitted. "And I have to be careful how much tennis I play in the build-up. At the same time I don't want to lose matches."

Rafter is the second seed and Sampras the favourite for the Pilot Pen International in New Haven this week during which Tim Henman, the sixth seed, has the chance to climb above the British No. 1, Greg Rusedski for the first time in more than a year. There is also a possibility Henman could squeeze into the world's top 10, for the first time in today's rankings.

Sport in brief

Rugby Union

The tight-head prop Kris Pullman, 25, has left Bristol to take up a three-year contract with London Irish. But there was brighter news for the troubled club when their England Under-21 back-row forward Jim Brownridge rejected an offer from Bath.

Cycling

Chris Boardman won the fifth and final stage of the Tour de l'Ain, a time-trial from Jasseron to Bourg-en-Bresse in France. His fellow Briton David Millard was second.

Boxing

Luisito Espinosa of the Phil-

ippines retained his WBC featherweight title on a controversial split decision against Mexico's Juan Carlos Ramirez in El Paso, Texas. The fight was stopped in the penultimate round when referee Espinosa accidentally butted his opponent.

Equestrian

Australia's Olympic champion, Blyth Tait, and Ruby Taddy won the Double Print British Open Horse Trials Championship at Gatcombe Park, Aylesbury. Hugo Simon of Austria won the Grand Prix in Aachen on ET FRH.

Ice Hockey

Cardiff Devils have signed Mario Simoni, a winger who scored 175 goals for the Danish team Vejens IK last season.

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Results

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PARTING SHOT

Best foot forward... Our Dickson's hooves are painted and groomed by Katherine Bradley from Jersey in preparation for the Junior and Young Riders European Dressage Championships at Hickstead. The competition begins on Wednesday and finishes next Sunday

Photograph: Martin Godwin



Where was the BBC's Mr Viagra?

SCREEN BREAK
Martin Kelner

THE opening weekend of the Premiership season, so eagerly anticipated when you have been starved of soccer for what seems like, oh, days, was blighted for me by that serialisation in a down-market tabloid, and the subsequent accusations of treachery at the highest level of English football.

I refer of course to the publication in the Daily Mail of extracts from Jimmy Hill's autobiography in which he reveals that he cheated on his second wife with not one but two entirely different and separate women. That's three women in all, count them.

No one to my knowledge has yet called for Hill's resignation — although football's Mr Viagra was missing from the opening line-up on Saturday's Match of the Day — but the steamy revelations do help to explain some of the

has got in among us, though, but the fact that the England coach has taken between £100,000 and £250,000 from the Sun for some of the juicier passages.

On the first day of the season we want to sit shirt-sleeved and untroubled in the August sunshine, not confront the ugly verminality at the heart of our national game. We know money talks in football but now, to paraphrase that great philosopher Mr Neil Diamond, it has started to sing and dance.

Both Mark Lawrenson and Dave Bassett on Football Focus thought Hoddle had gone beyond the pale in selling extracts from his story. The players, said Lawrenson, were furious to see Hoddle using their private dealings to line his pockets in this way. I mean, some of them have to work a month or more to make that kind of money.

Nor was it a surprise, said Bassett, that his fellow managers had raised an eyebrow at Hoddle's behaviour, with the ethics of the book being questioned by, among others, such pillars of rectitude as Terry Venables.

Whereas Football Focus was content to do no more than look askance at Hoddle's dealings, the Hoddle Must Go season kicked off in earnest on Sky's entertaining Hold The Back Page, on which Brian Woolnough of the Sun and three guest journeymen took the hell out of the issues of the day.

Rob Shepherd of the Express said Hoddle should be turned out of his job now, his argument being that memoirs were a kind of pension for England coaches. "If Hoddle wants the pension he should get out of the job," spluttered Shepherd.

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

THE MATCHES TOURNAMENT

South Africa 24 New Zealand 23

TOUR MATCH

Leinster 33 Morocco 14

INTER-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

Connacht 13 Munster 18

CONFERENCES

Stratford 47 S Wales Police 12

Worcester 32 Swans 27

Bedford 21 Bedford Athletic 3

Nottingham 22 Rotherham 38

Pontypool 18 Saracens 24

Gloucester 45 West Herts 24

NEILSON SEVERNS SEASIDE JED

Forest 21 Kilmory 17; Mairies 40 Gales 10

Flask Meirice 40 Jod-Forest 7

RUGBY LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE

Leeds 48

T. Bloom, Clinch, Mears, Mercer,

Morris, Pearson, Powell, Tull, Tull,

Warrington 7

Warrington 12, Pontypool 18

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ACADEMY: Championships

Cardiff 14; St Helens 28 Bradford 14

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RUGBY OPEN (Moscow)

Flammarion (GB) vs. Russia (Russia)

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RUSSIAN OPEN (Moscow)

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